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NOVEMBER 1994

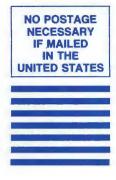


ANOTHER CLINTON COVER-UP? Fiske Investigation Ignores Overwhelming Evidence

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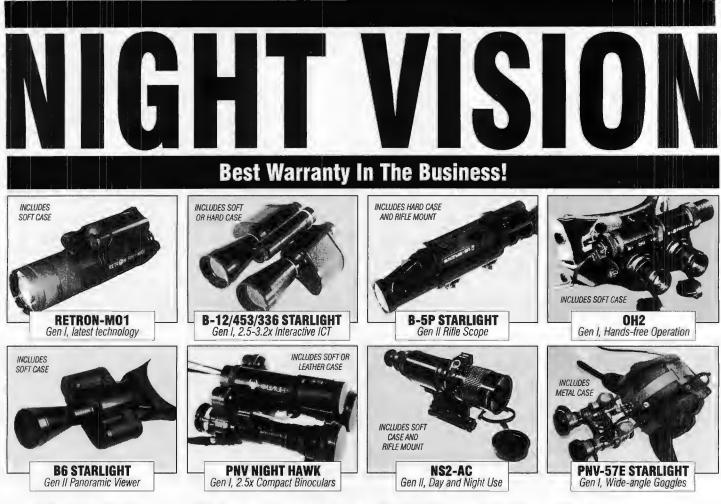


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In Memoriam

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Four votes. Count 'em, four votes. SOF Contributing Editor and gun rights activist Paul Danish lost the Democratic primary election to represent my district in the Colorado Legislature by four votes. If

five additional gun rights activists had turned out to vote for Paul, the result would have been different. So, please don't tell me that your vote doesn't count.

It is not the will of a majority of the people that

decides the outcome of an election; don't ever make that mistake. It is the will of a majority of registered voters who actually get out and vote. One of the easiest ways to lose an election is to assume that those on your side will come out and support you. They won't. Unless you constantly urge, remind and stress the importance of voting, most people won't bother.

I think we can make some big gains this year and, at the risk of sounding like a broken record, urge every SOF reader to grab a buddy or two and make it a priority to vote.

Brady I and the Clinton "crime bill" are just the beginning of the long-term, implacable attack on our right as citizens, as human beings, to the means of self-defense, to the right to keep and bear arms. Brady II, which was outlined in the September issue of SOF, is the next giant step in the

ELECTION ACTION ALERT Election day is only about a month away. NRA's Grassroots Division stands ready to help you make a difference in your area, to help you work to elect candidates who will stand up and fight for your Second Amendment rights. Call toll-free: 800-392-8683 by Robert K. Brown

program to degrade us to the status of disarmed, helpless subjects of a police state and ever more helpless prey to murderers and muggers.

Remember, the enemy has tried

to stack the deck against us. Every person who receives welfare is automatically registered to vote unless they sign a form to prevent it. This administration is going to lean hard on those receiving government handouts

and they will get their "cooperation."

If that doesn't worry you, I have it from a reliable source that ATF agents are training at military bases like Fort Carson in the use of Bradley fighting vehicles and chain guns — perhaps so that they may be better prepared to stage the next Waco or Ruby Ridge.

For the moment we are still citizens and have the vote. November 8 is the one day when you are boss. This is an awesome duty and responsibility. It is not only your sacred duty as a citizen to register and vote but also, and most important, to inform yourself on where the candidates actually stand and how they actually voted. The Grassroots Division of the NRA's Institute for Legislative Action (ILA) has a hotline at 1-800-392-8683; this is staffed daily from

Continued on page 70

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VOL. 19 NO. 11 November 1994





Peace Table PsyOps — page 50

FEATURES

THE GREAT AZERI OIL SCAM Thomas Goltz

Con artist sucks in American generals, mercs, oilmen in convoluted scheme to supply Azerbaijan with military advisers under auspices of reworking 35,000 derelict oil wells. **33**

THE BIG BANG Bob McKenna

Eighteen member Rhodesian SAS strike team penetrates deep behind enemy lines on revenge raid with spectacular results. **38**

MP9: OFFICIAL FIREPOWER Peter G. Kokalis

Made-in-the-U.S.A. submachine gun possible successor as top gun for military and law enforcement close quarter battle. **44**

PEACE TABLE PSYOPS Gary Bloomfield

America and North Korea have played a childish game of international tit-for-tat since the ceasefire at Panmunjom 40 years ago, often with violent consequences. **50**

THE SNIPER'S COMPANION Peter G. Kokalis

Leica rangefinding binoculars complete the one-shot, one-kill equation. They're not cheap, but they are state of the art. **52**

Foster Suicide: ANOTHER CLINTON COVER-UP? SOF Staff

Ousted "independent" counsel shores up White House position of no foul play — but "investigation" report is so full of holes it doesn't hold water. **54**

Photo: courtesy DoD



Oil Scam — page 33 Photo: Stanley Greene



Ruff Puff Rambos — page 20

FIGHTING CHANCE? **Dwight Swift**

Heavily touted self-defense videos prove you can not only survive, but prevail in a street fight --outnumbered, alone or unarmed. SOF was on the set during filming of Tactical Response Solutions' latest batch. 56

THE PREACHER **IS A SEAL?**

Larry Bailey **Decorated SEAL** aircrewman (?) becomes man of God after suffering multiple wounds during daring rescue in Vietnam. Well, not exactly. The sordid tale of Robin Wright. 58

Photo: Steven Waterman



COLUMNS

Command Guidance 3 Vote Out Those Who Sold Us Out!

Bulletin Board 6 Would You Fire On Gun Owners?

Slick Willie Watch 14 Crime Bill Already A Success

World SitRep 16

Was There 20 Ruff Puff Rambos

Combat Weaponcraft 27 Get The Picture

FLAK 28 Hell's A Relative Thing

Supply Locker 72

Classified 77

Advertisers Index 82

COVER

A model of innovation and reliability, **Ruger's MP9** submachine gun will vie with H&K's MP5 to win a place in the burgeoning military and police special units market. Technical Editor Peter G. Kokalis takes a comprehensive first-look at America's newest burp gun, beginning on page 44. Photo: Peter G. Kokalis



SOLDIER OF FORTUNE 5

NOVEMBER 94

BULLETIN BOARD

FIRE FIGHTERS

Fire fighting in Sarajevo is rough enough, what with shot-up equipment, catchas-catch-can logistics and severe shortages of fuel, water and staff. It's even rougher when you're trying to pull some little kid out of the rubble or staunch a fire in the hospital, and some low-life with an AK tries to punch your ticket. Well, enough is enough.

The all-volunteer Global Operations Fire/Rescue Services, a U.N.sanctioned Fire/EMS team now operating in Sarajevo, has been given a UNHCR mandate for ML-CPOs (Military Liaison-Close Protection Officers) to be an integral part of their fire-fighting/rescue teams in the former Yugoslavia.

The ML-CPOs' mission is to provide physical security for the Fire/EMS teams and equipment during fire, ground and rescue operations. They coordinate the deployment of UNPROFOR reaction teams to protect fire and emergency crews. The GOFRS, U.N. Fire/EMS team policy is, "You have to be alive to be a humanitarian." Rules of engagement are strict, and requirements for the job

even stricter: All are military and/ or law-enforcement professionals with at least 10 years' experience, including mandatory combat time. Current TO & E is MP5s

for ML-CPOs and Beretta 92Fs for all hands — soon to be supplemented by Knight SR-25s.

The GOFRS U.N. Fire/ EMS team is considered an integral part of UNPROFOR/UNHCR ops in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and as such is the only uniformed/armed humanitarian organization sanctioned by the United Nations. It is active on both sides of the battle lines and trusted by people who don't trust each other.

If you meet the unbendable qualifications for a fireman/EMS or ML-CPO,



Whaddya mean full-auto weapons have no sporting purpose? Michael "One Magazine, One Truckload" Siftar poses with a full bag limit of mixed-species trophies nailed with one of Bill Flemming's H&K Model 51s. Better get 'em out of the sun, bro ... I think they're starting to go sour. Photo: Gary Siftar

and want to get shot at for no pay trying to pull some lives out of a really frustrating mess, fax your CV to GOFRS: 202-289-1020.

some similar questions, and the ambient backdrop was the congressional fight over 1020. the confiscatory "crime control" bill. To put it mildly, gun rights activists reacted sharply — the questionnaire ignited a fire storm.

The questionnaire

teams had been asked



SOF Publisher Robert K. Brown and frequent contributor James L. Pate attended the Committee of 1776's pro-Second Amendment rally in Washington, D.C., last August, where nearly 5,000 rallied from across the country to hear speakers such as G. Gordon Liddy and former Harris (Houston) County, Texas, prosecutor Carl Haggard (with sword). Photos: Mark H. Milstein

GONZO WORKMAN

When fax networks were nearing meltdown recently with speculation over the purpose - and implications - of a questionnaire given to selected Marines at 29 Palms that asked if they would fire on U.S. citizens who refused or resisted attempts to seize personal firearms, it appears only one journalist went to the source. Dave Workman, National News Editor for Fishing and Hunting News and an NRA board member, got an exclusive interview with the author of that questionnaire.

The controversial questionnaire was hard on the heels of reports that SEAL asked for a response rating of one-to-five from "strongly agree" to "strongly disagree" with a space for "no opinion."

The controversial question read: "The U.S. government declares a ban on the possession, sale, transportation and transfer of all non-sporting firearms. A thirty (30) day amnesty is permitted for these firearms to be turned over to the local authorities. At the end of this period, a number of citizen groups refuse to turn over their firearms. Consider the following statement: I would fire upon U.S. citizens who refuse or resist confiscation of firearms banned by

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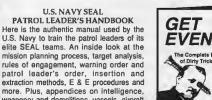






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the U.S. government."

The two major questions here are: Why would such a question be asked? ... and what did the Leathernecks say? Hitting the streets instead of hitting the fax network, Dave Workman wrangled an exclusive interview with Lieutenant Commander Guy Cunningham, a student at the Navy Post Graduate School at Monterey, California, who wrote the guestionnaire as part of a research project for his master's thesis. Cunningham, who describes himself as a "constitutionalist" and a life member of the NRA for 20 years, put together the survey after reading a magazine article dealing with President Clinton's apparent willingness to place U.S. combat troops under U.N. command.

The contentious Ques-

tion 46 was "thrown in as an afterthought," Cunningham told Workman. Considering the "non-traditional" uses of U.S. military forces today, Cunningham said it would "not be too farfetched from today's environment" to envision using U.S. troops in gun confiscation, and responding to resisters. Cunningham noted that "one can measure the degree of tyranny over people" by gauging the restrictions on their freedom of speech and religion, and their freedom to be armed.

And how did the Marines respond? Did their oath to the Constitution preclude their serving under the United Nations in an action against fellow Americans? Only Lt. Cmdr. Cunningham knows the results of his poll, and having inadvertently created flap enough, he's not talking — especially about Question 46.

Maybe the next questionnaire to be circulated should be to American gun owners: Would you fire upon any blue-helmeted troops who want to seize your guns by force? How do you say "cold dead fingers" in Esperanto?

RUSSIAN/SOUTH KOREAN GUN TRADE

With payment overdue of some \$650 million from Russia, looks like South Korea will have to accept at least part pay in weapons. Unable to pay cash, the Russians have offered MiG-29 aircraft, S-300 air defense missiles and other advanced Russian weaponry in lieu of money. South Korean officials weren't too warm to the idea because of problems with obtaining spares and maintenance supplies, and in integrating them

with an arsenal of mostly Western weaponry. South Korean Defense Ministry officials said no agreement has been reached on the specifics, but that it is anticipated Russia will pay off some \$100 million of its debt in military hardware.

THANK-YOU TRIPS FOR KOREAN WAR VETS

The subsidized revisits to Korea for American veterans of that war continue. If you want to be on board for next June's tour, contact Tom Jin, President, Dearborn Travel Inc., First National Plaza, Chicago, IL 60602; phone: 800-621-5724, or fax: 312-332-6305.

BLUE BADGE VICTORY

Those readers who contacted their elected

Continued on page 12

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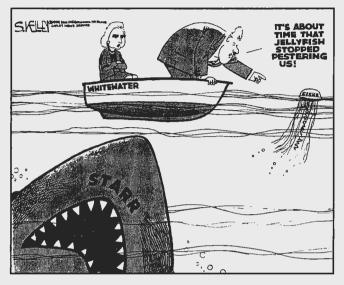
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kills already.



Continued from page 8

representatives in the support of common sense and fairness regarding the issuance of Combat Infantryman Badges (CIBs) to the thousands of convensuch as Somalia, may rest advised that the Good Guys won this one. The Army Awards and Decorations Branch has acquiesced from pressure through certain channels, and combat in



tional and SpecOps troopers who served in real, but "unofficial" combat in global hot spots a non-war now qualifies as combat for the purposes of awarding a CIB or CMB.

REFUGEE RELIEF TO RWANDA

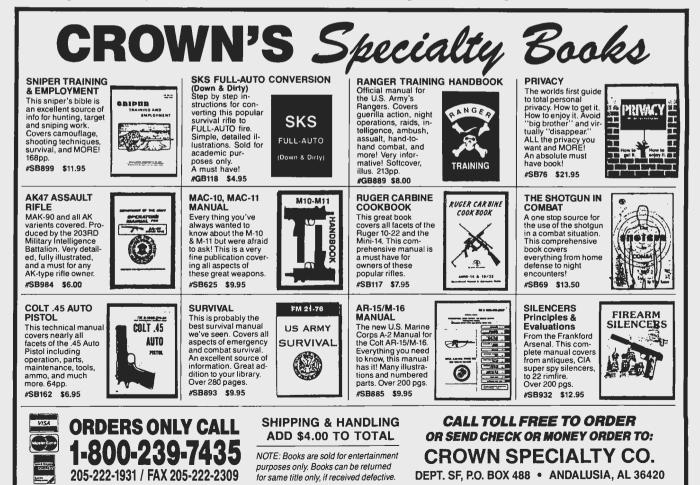
SOF's favorite charity. Refugee Relief International, under the capable direction of Colonel Alex McColl, has shipped some 40 cases of medical supplies to the desperate Rwandans via USAF relief flights, under the auspices and coordination of the Logistics branch of the State Department's Office of Foreign Disaster. The aid RRI sends out is the aid that you, our readers, send in. If you have any medical supplies that do not require lock-up or refrigeration, contact Col. McColl by phone: 303-449-3750, or via fax: 303-444-5617. Tax-deductible checks accepted, too!

HANOI JANE HELP

Author seeks information, interviews with anyone having specific knowledge of or strong opinions regarding Jane Fonda's 1972 Hanoi trip, particularly those Vietnam vets who were affected. Please contact John O. App, 30902 Calle San Felipe, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675; phone: 714-248-5545; fax: 714-443-0304.

GET WELLNESS

Health Net, California's second largest health maintenance business, has apparently come up with a novel way of cutting health costs: Spend their members' money with a large endowment to the "Wellness Foundation." Through their 800 number (800-222-MANY), the Wellness Foundation will send interested parties a "Citizen Involvement Kit" outlining how they can work to get guns out of the picture. 🕱



ANOTHER PEACETIME CASUALTY.

You don't have to be in the service to appreciate a good boot. But it helps.

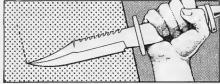
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leather tanned black inside and out (that way it doesn't show white at the seams), cut it

One firefighter Seams), cut it said our Thinsulate' insulation two inches taller boots were on fire. at the top (so you

can tuck your pants in), and added D-rings (for dress wear).

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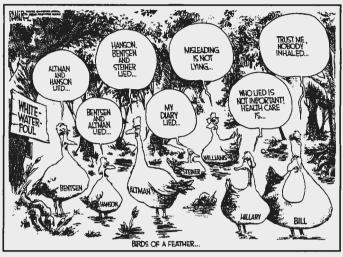
SLICK WILLIE WATCH



CRIME BILL ALREADY A SUCCESS

As we go to press, Clinton's scheme to "fight crime" by prohibiting decent citizens from owning semiautos that are statistically seldom used in crime — aka the Crime Bill — has not been passed. It's moot whether or not it will be. We hope not. But in any case, we have to admit in all fairness that this "crime bill" is already re-

sponsible for netting at least one fugitive. Ms. Janice Pavne was flown up from Louisiana by the White House to stand in the weeping backdrop of relatives of crime victims (which she was) as the president stood on the White House lawn and politicked the country in support of his bill. But she probably shouldn't have gone on camera. She was wanted by the local fuzz in Louisiana for allegedly violating her probation.



MORE CLINTON STAFFERS DROWN IN WHITEWATER

Deputy Treasury Secretary Roger Altman resigned under pressure August 17, a move he suggested might spare the Clinton administration further embarrassment over the Whitewater affair. Cronies since college days, Clinton appointed Altman deputy treasury secretary during the early days of his administration. Altman stood accused of misleading Congress in testimony about improper contacts between the Treasury Department and the White House staff, during a federal investigation of the failed Madison Guaranty Savings and Loan of Little Rock, Arkansas, and that institution's links to the Whitewater land development company.

Treasury's General Counsel Joan Hanson stepped down a day later because of testimony she gave during recent hear-

ings, which "differed substantially" from that given by Altman and Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen.

CLINTON ADMINISTRA-TION OKS HOME DEFENSE SHOT-GUNS ... FOR RUSSIANS

Does the Clinton administration believe a person has the right to own a firearm for self-defense? In view of the administration's gun control provisions in its "crime control" bill, the answer appears to be *no*, at least if you're an American.

But, if you're a Russian, then it's OK with Slick to have a shotgun for home defense. According to *Business Week*, the administration has approved the sale of huge quantities of pump shotguns to Russia. The Commerce Department estimates the sales of U.S. shotguns to Russia will reach "several hundred thousand units with a value approaching \$100 million."

Why does Ivan need shotguns? Business Week reports that "... a shocking rise in crime has driven up the demand for guns as personal protection." An unnamed State Department official told Business Week, "It's a political hot potato." Well, I guess! Hey, Slick, you idiot: Give the Russians your damn "crime control" bill, and give us the shotguns!

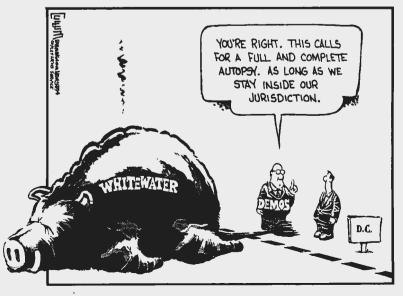
WASHINGTON'S "ELITE?"

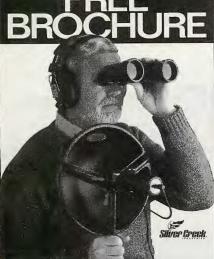
Discharge Petition 12 — Innocent Until Proven Guilty (Excerpted from *Congressional Record* of 26 July 1994)

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for one minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT: "Mr. Speaker, an unusual thing here:

Mrs. Allen is leaving her house, going to pick up her husband, and she





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owner, he was a John Richardson. John Richardson, giving his identification, she noticed that the car was registered in the name of a Margaret Richardson. He said, 'That's right, woman, that's my wife. She's also the IRS

scenities.

that's my wife. She's also the IRS commissioner, and I hope that you paid your taxes,' very arrogantly.

found her way blocked by a black

Volvo. She went and asked the restaurant if they would have the car removed. The valet started cursing at her and shouting ob-

Finally, when no one would help

her, Mrs. Allen called the police.

The police came, they found the

Mrs. Allen said, 'Wait a minute, what did you say?'

He said, 'That's right. The car is registered in my wife's name, Margaret Richardson. She's the IRS commissioner, and I hope you paid your taxes, lady.'

She says, 'I couldn't believe this.' The police came out and said, 'Don't make a big fuss, Mrs. Allen. You shouldn't have made such a big fuss. His wife is the IRS commissioner.'

Members of Congress, I understand that the IRS can threaten our taxpayers, intimidate them, scare the hell out of them. But here is a woman whose car was blocked in, was told by the husband of the IRS commissioner 'I hope you paid your taxes.'

Is that what it has come to? ... "

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LEGAL ASSAULT FUND

David Bond, editor of the *Coeur* d'Alene Press suggests establishment of a "Clinton Legal Assault Fund that would be used as a central clearing house for every shady aspect of the Clintons' character, particularly their damned lies and deceptions." Now that could be a daunting task. Volunteers? **X**



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WORLD SITREP

UNITED STATES

Army command and Army secretary approve agreement opening more than 37,000 Army positions to women and 48,000 slots in Marine Corps. Women will be eligible to fly combat helicopters in all but SpecOps units, and serve on warships. Although allowed in headquarters of "defensive ADA" and engineer units, they will still be barred from "offensive" artillery units, including MLRS.

Retired Major General David Einsel admits the Army formed suicide squads within Special Forces to carry nuclear bombs into enemy targets and guard them until detonation. All 300 of the Green Light Teams' backpack-nukes have been dismantled.

RUSSIA

Despite Clinton's claims that Russia will withdraw troops quartered in Estonia, Yeltsin maintains soldiers will remain until issues regarding Russians living there are resolved.

Announces joint U.S. maneuvers will be held in the southern Urals this fall.

SRI LANKA

Army troops discover 300-kg rebei LTTE bomb and extra explosives in Colombo. Government troops conduct helicopter raid destroying LTTE naval base, killing 19 rebels and sinking several boats.

NETHERLANDS

Encourages its soldiers not to wear earrings or keep their hair long in order to look like professional soldiers.

SOMALIA

Somali gunmen continue to harass U.N. forces and convoys. Aidid warns civil war could break out again. U.N. Secretary General Ghali suggests reducing peacekeeping force because it cannot stop fighting and is at risk for nothing. Malaysia may withdraw its troops since force is accomplishing little, and U.S. may withdraw diplomats and Marines because of rising violence.

Seven Indian soldiers killed in firefight with Aidid's militia.

PHILIPPINES

Bishops call for crackdown on Abu Sayyaf rebels who hold a Catholic priest captive.

Police arrest two men who were members of hit team that murdered two U.S. servicemen in 1990.

CUBA

After government gunboats sink tugboat loaded with 70 people trying to escape the island, killing 40, Cuba reverses its policy and threatens a new boatlift. U.S. Coast Guard recovers more than 2,750 refugees in a one-month period. In an effort to stem the exodus, Attorney General Janet Reno announces Cubans arriving in United States by boat will be detained rather than released immediately.

ANGOLA

15

UNITA forces shoot down PC-7 light attack aircraft flown for government forces by South African mercenaries. UNITA captures pilots alive and warns peace talks will be disrupted if government does not stop using mercenaries.

COLOMBIA

3

In largest battle in two years, 300 FARC rebels kill 24 soldiers guarding oil facilities. FARC rebels continue attacks on several towns and police stations near Bogota and army camp near Dabeiba.

EGYPT

Finds 10 tunnels linking refugee camps in Egypt to those in Gaza. They have been used for years to smuggle people and weapons across the border. YEMEN

North begins forming a national unity government while ousted Southern leaders meet in Saudi Arabia to plan their next move. New President Saleh asks for help in returning warplanes, ships and rebels that fled South Yemen in final days.

Looting stops in Aden after most goods are stolen. Water remains in short supply and some instances of cholera have been noted. Islamic fundamentalists of the Iranbacked Islah Party, the rise of which triggered the civil war, move in to help police the city, i.e. enforce Islamic law.

CAMBODIA

Government troops break up coup attempt, put former interior minister in jail and Prince Chakrapong (estranged son of Sihanouk) on plane to Malaysia. Vietnamese deny any involvement.

Parliament votes to outlaw Khmer Rouge. After King Sihanouk vows not to sign bill, parliament votes to give acting head of state Chea Sim authority to sign it into law. KR declares itself a government in exile and masses troops at Battambang. Pol Pot is reported to be at a KR base in the north.

RWANDA

Rebel Tutsis capture key government-held towns, including Kigali, declaring victory and effectively ending the fighting. Hundreds of thousands of refugees flee to Zaire from fear of Tutsi reprisals for Hutu massacres in what may be the greatest human exodus in history. United Nations and U.S. scramble to organize relief efforts.

GAMBIA

4

15

Disgruntled over back pay owed for peacekeeping duties in Liberia, soldiers rampage and take control of country. President Dawda Jawara takes refuge on USS *La Moure County*, in the harbor for a training exercise, and flees to Senegal. New leader, Lieutenant Yayeh Jameh, vows to turn over power to a "mostly civilian" government as soon as possible.

FRANCE

Arrests Venezuelan-born Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, aka Carlos the Jackal, after extradition from Sudan, ending a 20-year hunt. Carlos had teamed up with Germany's Red Army Faction, the Japanese Red Army, the Basque separatist movement in Spain and various Palestinian organizations. Allegedly involved in the 1972 massacre of 11 Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympics, the 1975 attack on OPEC headquarters, and the 1976 hijacking of an Air France jet to Entebbe, Uganda, he has been wanted in France for the 1974 deaths of two French counterintelligence officers.

World SittRep is excerpted from the blweekly newsletter For Your Eyes Only: An Open Intelligence Summary of Current Millary Affairs. Published by Tiger Publications. P.O. Box 8759; subscriptions are \$65 per year (26 issues). Sample Issue available far §3. Those Interested in reliable, up-to-date world intel are encouraged to subscribe.

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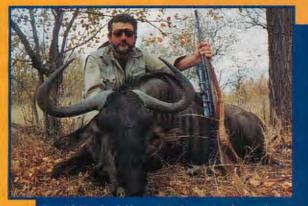
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Mike McPike '94 Safari participant

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I WAS THERE

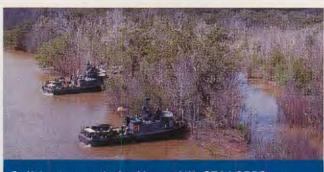
Ruff Puff Rambos

Text & Photos by Steven Waterman

he landing ship USS Terrell County was anchored a few miles off the coast of Vietnam in May 1969. Members of Golf Detachment, Underwater Demolition Team (UDT) 13, a number of frogmen from UDT 21, six Swift boats and two aircraft were preparing to embark on a search and destroy mission up the Song Ong Doc River on the Ca Mau Peninsula as part of the SEA LORDS campaign.

At approximately 0400 we ate chow, checked our gear and went on deck to prepare for getting under way. We loaded magazines and assisted boat crews stowing demolitions aboard the Swift boats. Our basic load consisted of munitions by the caseload: machine gun and small arms ammo, C4 and mortar rounds, M-79 ammunition and hand grenades. Normally around this time a squad from SEAL Team One, also operating from the Terrell County, would return from night operations with a prisoner or two for interrogation and the latest intelligence. Apparently, they had taken this night off.

We usually took along a dozen or so Regional Forces and Popular Forces (known as RFPFs or Ruff Puffs). Although on this mission we were picking them up en route, we would often bring them aboard for chow and movies the night before an operation. None of us had



Swift boats were the backbone of the SEA LORDS campaign. Carrying twin .50 Brownings topside, and another M2 and 81mm mortar in the stern, they were fast and well armed, but loud and unarmored.

a "warm and fuzzy" about living offshore on a ship carrying both Vietnamese troops and tons of high explosives. I often caught our sailors asleep on watch. Any Ruff Puff could have been Nguyen Van Hardcore — all he needed to be a hero was a length of time fuse, a cap and a match.

By the time the sun crept toward the horizon, we were ready to get under way. Our boats were loaded, crews were briefed and two Seawolf helicopters on the Terrell County were on call. The aircrews monitored our radio frequencies but wouldn't take off until we left the pickup point with the Ruff Puffs or ran into trouble - no sense orbiting around burning fuel. The skipper fired up both diesel engines and our sixboat flotilla struck out for the mouth of the Song Ong Doc.

Upon arriving at the rendezvous point, our skipper pushed the bow into the mud on the riverbank. The Ruff Puffs were waiting and wanted us to get off the boat and follow them into the village for a Coke or something. We didn't relish that idea — the less time spent screwing around onshore, the less opportunity the Viet Cong would have to set up any surprises. Lieutenant Bruce Dyer, our equipped with World War II-vintage M1 and M2 carbines. Some of them wore sandals and had brightly colored scarves around their necks, a method of unit designation. I got the distinct impression they were not crack troops.

The deck was crowded with UDTs, our boat crew and Ruff Puffs. An M2 Browning heavy machine gun was mounted on the stern deck and twin Brownings were mounted in the gun tub, topside behind the wheelhouse. I was sitting in the only available spot — under the stern gun with my back against its mount.

No Place To Hide

Once the sun was above the horizon it cast



Seawolves used UH-1s as gunships to provide quick response for river ops. In addition to this doorgunner's M60, there were five other M60 GPMGs and 14 2.75-inch rockets.

OIC, told them to get onboard.

The Ruff Puffs crowded on several boats and we headed upriver. They were an oppressive heat. I never really got used to it, I just quit bitching about it. Light reflected off the brown water made it diffi-



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cult to see details on shore. We tried to convince ourselves nobody could see us and the Viet Cong didn't know we were coming. It was the most naked feeling in the world --- sitting on deck with two huge diesel engines screaming underneath, unable to see the riverbank through the glare and assuming nobody knows you are there. There's no place to hide - the fishbowl effect. You can't sneak up on anybody, and you can't even tell when you're being shot at.

Without warning, a huge geyser of water erupted 50 feet astern, equidistant between us and a following boat. Every weapon opened up. I didn't have a clue as to what the hell was going on, but thought I had better get involved. But, from where I was sitting I didn't have a clear field of fire, and couldn't bring my weapon to bear.

Suddenly I had a searing pain in my back. I thought I had been hit. Fifty-caliber shell casings were falling down between my flak vest and my shirt. I rolled over and got the vest off rather hurriedly. No harm was done.

The skipper pushed the throttles wide open and the sound of both engines increased from a roar to a scream as the boat lurched ahead to get clear of the kill zone. Our sixboat formation split in two. Three lead boats sped upriver; three boats turned downstream so we could insert and encircle the ambushers.

We traveled 100 yards around a slight bend when the skipper throttled back and pushed the bow ashore. The boat mushed to a halt in soft mud. Dean Nelson moved to the bow and told the Ruff Puff adviser to get his troops off the boat. They wouldn't budge. They milled around indecisively, afraid to get off the boat. Nelson threatened to open fire. That was a message they understood.

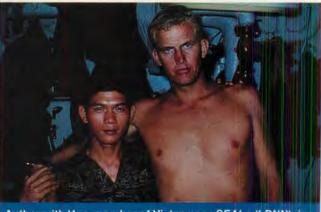
I made a graceful exit from the bow by jumping down, driving both legs into soft mud up to my knees, and falling forward onto my rifle. Normally this exhibition would have elicited laughter, but most of us landed the same way. We all piled off the boat, pulled each other out of the mud and tried to move inland as quickly as possible.

Death From Above

We had no idea what size force we might be facing. Fortunately, the Seawolves were airborne and heading our way. They spotted several Viet Cong running from the riverbank and took them under fire with M60s. We watched smoke trails shoot earthward as they fired rockets at positions hidden in foliage. On the radio I heard one ground commander frantically order the aircraft to hold their fire until they were well away from friendly ground forces; brass casings were landing around his troops. Getting hit by brass dropping from 1,000 feet could ruin your whole day.

We moved out. The path I chose intersected a small stream with tree branches low to the ground. As I passed under, it brushed the top of my head and shoulders. My neck felt like it had been hit with a bucket of hot coals. In a frenzie, I tried to brush off whatever it was and went down on my knees: red ants those damn things were three quarters of an inch long and at least a third of that length was teeth. I cleared them off, buttoned my collar and sleeves, packed handfuls of mud around my neck and wrists and marched on.

Boatswain's Mate Bob Lewis, Hospital Corpsman Larry Williams and I moved out ahead and to the right of the Ruff Puffs. They didn't have our aggressive attitude, or they knew something we didn't. fired sporadically. Lewis got off about 30 rounds when he stopped and went down on one knee. Williams and I stepped up our fire to cover him, and I moved over to see what was wrong. He was running through immediate action drills trying to clear his weapon. The extractor had broken off the end of a shell casing and the brass was stuck in the chamber. He couldn't clear



Author with Von, member of Vietnamese SEALs (LDNN), in May 1969. Although many Vietnamese forces served admirably, Ruff Puffs in Ca Mau Peninsula left much to be desired.

We were moving across a small open area when I heard a loud explosion. A Viet Cong hidden in bushes to our front fired a B-40 rocket through our formation and into a tree behind us. Nobody was hurt.

Lewis opened fire with his M60, and Williams and I moved forward. We spotted movement in the bushes, but hesitated. Lieutenant Dyer was somewhere on our left flank with the Buff Puffs. and there were others on the right. We also knew three boatloads of good guys were coming in from somewhere ahead of us. We didn't want to take a chance on shooting our own men.

It didn't take us long to realize the movements in the bushes were not friendlies. The Ruff Puffs it and didn't have a spare barrel.

Ruff Puffs Attack

With a surprising injection of courage, the Ruff Puffs bounded past our position and into the bushes, effectively ending the firefight. As I moved closer, I could see the body of a Viet Cong lying partially hidden. One of the little Ruff Puffs ran up and emptied a full magazine into the guy's chest. They dragged out his body and two others.

This Viet Cong appeared to be in his late teens or early twenties. An AK-47, a few magazines, a B-40 launcher and two rockets lay beside him. Another Viet Cong had been running toward a small canal when he

Continued on page 64

Secret New Fighting System Will Make Even A Black Belt Karate Expert Putty In Your Hands!

by Dr. Russell Horine, President, Tactical Response Solutions

Dear Friend,

If you are even remotely interested in learning how to physically protect yourself (and your loved ones) with complete confidence, then this will be the most important letter you ever read.

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This system is called Explosive Metafighting Technologies (X-Tec[™]). I've seen it in action, I've used it, and I tell you with all seriousness that it is simply...

The Most Devastating Fighting System Imaginable — Yet It's Like Nothing You've Seen Before!

In most cases, you'll be able to end a fight instantly with a single move (that cannot be defended against!) no matter how "overmatched" you are in size or meanness. You do not need quick reflexes, big muscles, flexibility, or any previous fighting skills at all. Nor do you need hours of practice, because you can learn everything — on your own — in just a short time. And since this amazing new system is based on the way you move naturally, once you see how X-Tec works, you'll know instinctively how to use it forever!

I know you're probably skeptical right now — I certainly was at first. But let me tell you, everyone who has seen **X-Tec** in action has finally admitted that it is, ultimately, the only *truly undefeatable hand-to-hand fighting sys tem* ever developed. And I'm talking about people who have a lot to *lose* by admitting this... for example:

- A former U. S. soldier named Bob Taylor, who has seen heavy action in 7 different wars worldwide (including 2 frontline tours in Viet Nam) and who is an internationallyrespected expert on terrorism and hand-tohand combat, has gone on record saying this new fighting system is so effective that he would fear it more than a skilled opponent armed with a gun or knife... even if the person using the system was an inexperienced fighter!
- A young woman (with no previous fighting

skills) learned just the *basics* of **X-Tec** before leaving for a job in Africa, and taught it to her friend. Soon after arriving, both women were cornered by 6 adult Nairobi gangsters in a park... and the ladies' simple training allowed them not only to instantly get out of trouble, but to send their attackers *running away in panic!*

- An Albuquerque man who had been passive and meek his entire life (a basic "nice guy" who wouldn't hurt a fly) spent just over three hours practicing this new system, yet had learned enough to fight off 4 attackers when he and his wife and kids were jumped without warning!
- A well-known local 4th degree black belt fighter has publicly *refused* to even go up against an opponent using X-Tec—once he saw it in action he could instantly tell he would be helpless to defend himself, or to even get a strike in before he went down!

I could go on for pages with more examples. But here's the "clincher": My friend Bob (6' 4", 265 lbs. of solid muscle) and I both tried to "get" at a guy using X-Tec who maybe weighed 150 lbs. soaking wet. It was only a demonstration, but I wasn'tholding back. Now, I weighed in at about 220 myself, fresh from a four-month bodybuilding regimen that had me in the best shape of my life... between the two of us, this little guy should have been beaten easily. Yet, he dropped Bob to his knees with a simple "twist" that nearly broke Bob's wrist ... and I'm still hurting (weeks later) where I got "gently" popped. We never even made the guy flinch. If it had been a real fight, the squirt said he wouldn't have been so easy on us.

Two Moves, The "Fight" Was Over... And We Wanted No More Of *That* Little Guy!

It was the most amazing demonstration I'd ever experienced. And once *you* see X-Tec in action yourself, I'm sure you'll be just as amazed.

Here is how we came to discover X-Tec: For some time now, I have had access to the inside of the modern military and law enforcement world (called the "industry" by some). This is the world of the Navy SEALS, federal agencies like the DEA and the FBI, big-city police SWAT teams, and even some "quasi-legal" organizations that I could never tell you about.

The secrecy surrounding this "industry" makes James Bond movies look calm... and the *reallife combat* that goes on would make Rambo faint. That's just the truth. Most of what these people do is **top secret** — including many of the fighting techniques they use. (The military "brass" has actually stepped in to **stop** us from disseminating previous fighting technology to the general public!)

Anyway, a few months ago I received a phone call from one of my inside "contacts" — who promised to introduce me to a "mystery man" who was not well-known outside the industry, but who was highly respected by *insiders* because...

He Had Never Lost A Fight... Despite Leading One Of The Most Dangerous Lives On The Planet!

This man had developed (somehow) a strange new fighting system that had absolutely **revolutionized** hand-to-hand combat among the professional soldiers and cops who needed it. Yet, despite the deadly effectiveness of the moves, the system was astonishingly *easy to learn and simple to remember*. It requires no special skills, no physical strength or agility, and almost no practice time at all... a **perfect fighting tool** for professionals who often needed to use what they learned immediately... *yet it involves no martial arts or "classic" fighting methods whatsoever!*

This system has been taught to **FBI** agents, big-city police **SWAT** teams, and even **topsecret U.S. military units** (for "security operations" the general public never hears about). The professionals who use this system *trust it* because they knew from experience it will work **every time** under the worst conditions imaginable: It doesn't matter if they are exhausted, starving, wounded, carrying heavy packs, or operating in cramped spaces where a roundhouse punch was impossible. The simple fact is...

If This New System *Didn't* Work, Good Men Would Die!

Man, this was something I wanted to find out more about. It wouldn't be easy — the man who developed this new system was still heavily involved with highly sensitive government "work" and was (with good reason) suspicious of outsiders...

And He Had Never Trained Anyone He Hadn't Personally Hand-Picked!

That's where my own "inside contacts" really paid off... and I got to meet **Rick Reynolds**. Let me tell about this guy (it's a Hollywood story in itself): He stands 5' 10", weighs in at *maybe* 150 lbs., and looks remarkably like Barney Fife (the deputy from the "Andy Griffith Show").

Yet, before he became so well-known for his incredible fighting system, he was a "front line, front line" combat soldier in Viet Nam for 2 years — in the thick of the most vicious jungle fighting of the war. The killing he experienced made movies like "Platoon" look like picnics in the park. He was a star specialoperations man in the **75th Rangers** and "Echo Company" (the **173rd Airborne**), the <u>mostdecorated outfit</u> in the military for that war. These outfits saw *more action* than any other group of soldiers... including the Green Beret! Plus, Rick's skills were so respected that he was "loaned out" for dangerous missions with the British Paratroopers, the 1st Air Cavalry, and the Australian army. **This was extremely unusual and further testimony to the deadly <u>uniqueness</u> of Rick's combat skills.**

Often, he would find himself set down by choppers **behind enemy lines**... where he had to complete his mission and then *walk* back on his own! (He was involved with numerous prisoner-rescue operations deep in the jungles of North Viet Nam — a job any soldier will tell you was the most *dangerous* in the war!)

Rick Was Able To Study The "Science" Of Hand-To-Hand Combat In A Personal Way Most Men Cannot Conceive Of!

He actually spent an entire year in close combat conditions (at one point the action was so severe he couldn't afford to bathe for a month)! He was sent out on one "hands on" secret mission after another... operations so highly-classified that the U.S. has only recently (after 20 years) admitted they happened at all! Rick's experience earned him a chestful of medals, including the Air Medal (issued for the 52 air assaults he was involved in), the British Commando Badge, the Combat Infantry Badge (reserved for grunts with at least 30 days actual combat) and twelve others. He was also the only U.S. soldier ever honored with an invitation to go on missions with a Korean ROK unit... the most vicious soldiers in the war!

Yet Rick had learned early on that the combat training he'd been given in boot camp was practically *worthless* in the field. If he was going to survive the daily danger he was in, he knew he would have to find *better* fighting skills. Andhe needed skills he could learn *immediately* — any thought of spending a lot of time with any fancy martial art was out.

So Rick began to pick and choose among the various fighting styles he'd been exposed to: the street fighting of his youth, the few effective moves he'd learned as a rookie grunt, the killer strikes the Korean **ROK**'s shared with him, the martial art basics that actually worked... and, most important, the quick, sure moves he developed on his own during hand-to-hand combat he had to win... or never live to tell about.

By the time he left the Army, Rick had become, quite literally... One Of The Most *Dangerous* Men In The World At Hand-To-Hand Combat!

And his training didn't stop with the war. He got a job walking a police beat in Albuquerque, New Mexico... the leading U.S. city in almost every criminal statistic! (It's the crossroads of Interstate-40 and I-25, two common routes of felons from Mexico and both U.S. coasts.)

Like I said, Rick looks just like Barney Fife

— lanky, skinny, with a calm, innocent boyish face. A lot of tough, hardened criminals wanted to "take the scrawny cop apart"... and they always got the surprise of their life. Rick has been shot, stabbed, had his nose broken 12 times, been run over by a car, and put in the hospital on six occasions...

Yet He Has Never Lost A Fight!

Rick doesn't overpower anyone with size (he's small), or speed (he's got average reflexes), or even skill (the style he's developed consists mostly of **single moves that will end a fight instantly...** there's absolutely nothing fancy or complicated about it)!

When he left the police work after 14 years (he had reached the office of Chief of Police), he became a bodyguard for people twice his size. Clients included **Tex Cobb** (who fought Larry Holmes for the heavyweight boxing championship), **Arnold Schwarzenegger**, and **Lou Ferigno** ("The Hulk" on TV). How effective are Rick's fighting methods? His waist was smaller than Tex Cobb's thigh... yet Rick was hired to *protect* Tex!

That tells you something, doesn't it?

All in all, Rick has spent **26** years developing his one-of-a-kind fighting system. He has "melted down" everything he learned from the battlefield and the street and...

Distilled It Into A Basic, Simple, And Deadly System That Can Now Be Learned And *Used* With Ease By Anyone!

Let me tell you, despite his brutal background, Rick is one of the most *concerned* men I've ever met. He's seen firsthand how bad guys take advantage of decent men and women and children, and he seriously does not like it. He *hates* the idea of his kids, or anyone else's kids, having to walk in *fear* in their own community — and it wasn't difficult to talk him into finally sharing this new system of fighting with civilians outside the "industry". A system that we could bring to people like you, to people like my family and friends. A system that would work with...

100% Effectiveness, 100% Of The Time!

Here's what you get in the X-Tec package that Rick has put together for you:

- 1. Two full-length video tapes, featuring Rick himself, that show you *everything* you need to know about this new system. The tapes use live action footage, multi-camera angles, and slow-motion replays — so each tape is a complete lesson.
- 2. A special report on Street Fighting that gives you an *inside look* at what really happens in most altercations, whether it's in a beerhall, a back alley, a busy street, or a fancy restaurant. You'll come away with a lifetime worth of "street" knowledge and savvy — and you'll *never* be surprised by what happens to you in the real world again!
- **3.** You get a heavy manual full of illustrations and detailed explanations of everything you'll see in the videos.

4. Plus, you get a detailed human anatomy chart illustrating all the "one-strike takedown points" you'll use as targets — along with explanations of your body's most effective natural weapons!

Listen — soldiers and police officers who study with Rick often have to put what they've learned to the test *immediately*... and they come back with detailed results of the effects.

These Fighters Know — With As Much Certainty As A Cat Stalking A Mouse — What To Do When They're Faced With A Fight!

The importance of this knowledge becomes brutally obvious when you see your standard downtown martial art studio in action. What people learn there are fancy moves that can take *up to 10 years to master*... yet it's more like **dance** than fighting. And black belt "experts" are *notorious* for looking great in the dojo, and then getting beaten to a pulp by average street fighters in real life. Even more important...

Why Do You Need To Practice Fancy Moves When *Real* Fighters End A Fight In 4 to 6 Seconds With One Artless Blow!

Black belt instructors who aren't real-life fighters simply do not have the knowledge of what happens in a real fight. And this creates a "mystery zone" for their students... if you aren't 100% confident that what you learn will work in the real world, how can you justify the time you spend learning any technique? I think that's ridiculous.

With The "Real Life" Fighting Know-how You Get From X-Tec, You'll *Always* Know What To Do When It's "Crunch Time"!

There will be no "gray areas" in your knowledge. No guessing. Not even a *shred* of selfdoubt! If you *ever* have to use what you've learned, you will have the confidence of knowing what to expect at *each and every moment* — from the first push or insult to the moment *you* decide to end the confrontation. I can't stress how crucial that is in the real world. It's the difference between standing there blinking and being a *victim...*

And Walking Away As The Victor!

Here's what *else* you're going to learn:

- The one **huge mistake** all inexperienced fighters make in their head that *guarantees* they will be turned into victims... and how to "parlay" it into an advantage that will give YOU an instant 200% increase in your chances of winning *even if it's your first fight ever!*
- Why your weight, strength, speed and agility are the *least* important parts of winning a street altercation! (And why the one simple secret that is important will give you an immediate and enormous advantage over *any other fighter* you meet!)
- How to *automatically* avoid the blunders that get even nationally-ranked karate masters demolished in street fights! (It's called "Stress Shock Phenomenon", and once

you've stored this knowledge in your nervous system, you'll *never* "freeze up" or panic when your adrenaline starts to flow and the dirt hits the fan! Yet there isn't a karate studio in the *country* that knows how to teach this crucial part of winning fights!) **VERY IMPORTANT!**

- Why your fist may be the absolute worst weapon you can use in hand-to-hand combat! (And exactly how to strike so you won't damage any part of yourself!)
- Astonishingly easy ways to escape any grab or hold (including a "bear hug" from behind by someone many times larger and stronger than you) and reverse the attack instantly (and painfully for your attacker)!
- The "voice tool" secret that will *immediately* change your attitude from calm to *dominant* in any surprise situation!
- Simple fight-ending moves that require no strength whatsoever! (I know of arthritic 80year-old grandmothers who have knocked young male attackers senseless!)
- The 2 worst things you can do when being choked during a fight... it's what most people want to do instinctively, yet knowing just one artless move from this system can free you and end the assault at the same time!
- How to use a little-known "positioning secret" to completely **cancel out** the superior size or experience of your attacker! (Size and strength are *meaningless* when you know this secret!)
- Why a simple "mock" submissive action will always fool a larger opponent... and set him up for quick, easy fight-ending moves!
- How to turn everyday items in your pocket (or your wife's purse) into vicious weapons that will (1) show you mean business, (2) instantly frighten anyone with an ounce of common sense, and (3) allow you to dominate any situation with a single blow!
- How to gain an immediate "Psychological Edge" when someone pulls a knife on you... and how to spot the 4 most common methods of knife attacks so you can win with a minimum of fuss and blood!
- Why the one fighting secret understood only by the world's most successful soldiers can give you the power to determine how any fight will come out! (Not one street fighter in a thousand has a clue to this secret.)
- The almost unbelievable facts about gunfights that you'll never learn on CNN — yet just *knowing* them could mean the difference between surviving a gun attack and being a stone-cold victim!
- How a **3,000 year old movement secret** can give anyone blinding speed within the "nonlethal" zone against an armed attacker! (You've <u>never</u> seen this before!)
- How to conquer forever the "shakes" and out-of-control anger or fear that *all* inexperienced fighters suffer!
- The secrets of using pain and shock to

disable your opponent without causing him permanent injury!

- Your body's 8 most devastating natural weapons (including your own "personal piece of steel pipe"!)
- How to easily turn your day-to-day attitude into an "Controlled Aggression" mindset that won't change anything about you except:
 - -Your level of fear will vanish forever...
 - —You'll become more decisive in *everything* you do, and especially when the chips are down...
 - You'll gain enormous self-confidence that will shine like a searchlight in your eyes...
 - You will take total and complete *control* of every situation in your life... instead of just reacting to what happens to you (like a helpless puppet whose strings are pulled by other people!).

And more, and more, and more. This package is truly the most amazing self-teaching method of real-life fighting you've ever seen. Just listen to what some very impressive people have to say about Rick's fighting system:

"I've personally seen Rick take down one huge man after another with a single move... his system is simple and easy, yet 100 times more effective that anything I learned in the 4 different security academies I attended (including the Air Force). Let me tell you, I watch the little bitty guys I go up against very closely now." Sam Page (6'5", 200 lbs.), private investigator and licensed bodyguard with 5 years military police and 17 years of law enforcement experience

"I've seen Rick's techniques in action they are deceptively simple, yet extremely brutal and fierce when used. I can attest that this stuff has been proven over and over again in real life fights where someone didn't walk away." John Coffman, 4th degree black belt with 22 years of martial arts experience

"I want my entire family to learn Rick's technique—because I absolutely believe that what they learn could save their life. I've already sent numerous professionals to Rick, including several federal law enforcement agents. This is the real stuff — the kind of fighting know-how that professional fighters really respect." Robert Taylor, 2-tour veteran of Viet Nam with 75th Rangers, internationallyrespected consultant for high-risk security and special operations (clients include African, South American and North American countries)

"Bigger and tougher guys just can't understand how someone smaller can beat them so easily. I've used what Rick taught me to dramatically resolve difficult situations with a minimum of damage or force... just like that, the fight is over. This is perfect for someone who doesn't possess strength or power; a grandmother, your children, anyone can use it effectively." Dave Bartram, 21-year police veteran and retired SWAT team sergeant

"I've used this system, and was surprised how well it works — it was automatic, no thinking involved, and I was instantly out of trouble. I love Rick's system so much, I'm having both my daughters (14 and 17 years old) learn it. I feel more confident with them knowing this than having them take a firearms course or drag themselves through a long martial art program." Clark Sanchez, former police officer and bodyguard, former Mr. Southwestern, current judge for Mr. Olympia and Mr. Universe bodybuilding contests, black belt and actor ("Wyatt Earp", with Kevin Costner, "Backtrack" with Dennis Hopper, "Natural Born Killers" with Oliver Stone)

Let me stress something here — you need this information! It is not a luxury, not in today's world. I just saw some video tape on TV of convicts in prison... you know what they were doing during their "free time" in the prison yard? Teaching each other how to sneak up and rob people, how to choke and drag off victims without sound, how to hurt and cripple and *destroy people's lives* just to satisfy their sick needs. In short, they were "going to school" to learn how to take advantage of <u>you</u> once they get out!

Do you want to be a victim? Do you want your loved ones to be victims? Do you want to walk around with a layer of sweaty fear on your skin all the time, knowing you're vulnerable at every street corner to being assaulted, robbed, or worse?

I sure don't, and I don't believe you do, either. It's time to learn how to take care of yourself and stop hoping that the police, or your friends, or your neighbors will help you out. You're alone out there, friend. It's an adults-only world with no rules left. It's a jungle... and

This Explosive Fighting Technology Package Can Quickly Turn *You* Into One Of The Few Winners In The World!

This information does not insult your intelligence in any way — there are no mysterious Oriental chants or religious nonsense to learn. You do your learning at your own pace, at home. You can learn *fast*, too...

In A Matter Of *Hours* You'll Surpass The Fighting Skill Of Guys With 10 Years Experience In Martial Arts!

That's because this stuff is based on what works in real-life fights that take place in four to six seconds, and not in "perfect" environments where you have a lot of room and a mat under your feet. You need no previous experience in any kind of fighting whatsoever we'll show you *everything* you'll ever need to know. You don't need to be strong, quick, agile, or even in shape. And every move is based on the way you move *naturally* there's no gymnastics involved, no spinning kicks, no jumping, no fancy moves of any kind.

Though let us be clear on this: You must take total responsibility for your actions this is a "use at your own risk" type of product, and you can understand why I have to say that. What we're teaching here is the most effective fighting method on the planet... used correctly, and you will be able to defeat anyone — unless they happen to be a skilled insider from the "industry". But we can't make you invulnerable to the world—this is your best-possible defense against aggression, but it's not fool-proof. Just so long as we understand what's going on here, all right?

But I'm not asking you to take any <u>financial</u> <u>risk</u>. On the contrary, I'm going to make it as easy and simple as possible for you to try this amazing X-Tec fighting system out for yourself... without risking a dime. Here is my...

100% No-Nonsense Guarantee:

If you aren't convinced — beyond a shadow of doubt — that this system is everything I've said it is... a no-guesswork, tested-in-realbattle-conditions, easy-to-learn-fast course in turning yourself into the most formidable fighter you could ever dream of being... *after trying it out* for **3 entire months**, then I insist you return the package to me, and I will immediately send you a 100% refund of your purchase price. No questions asked, no hard time from me... and we'll still be friends. I trust your opinion, and I believe you won't take advantage of me on this "almost too-generous" guarantee. I won't have it any other way.

That's a darn good, no-risk-on-your-part guarantee. And it means, simply, that there isn't any reason in the world for you <u>not</u> to try this incredible fighting system out for yourself. Within those 3 months, you're going to acquire confidence like you never imagined possible before... and you're going to learn fighting skills and know-how that will place you in the *upper 2% of the world*... including all those guys who have been slaving away at their martial art for 5 and 10 years.

So How Much Does This X-Tec Package Cost?

Not very bloody much, if you understand what went into it. First of all, Rick Reynolds commands incredibly steep fees for personal instruction (and he only gives it to personally invited people!), and earns **thousands of dollars a day** when he teaches special sessions for law enforcement and military agents.

We spent months of research time, and did weeks of filming and editing and making this package everything it should be. At first we thought of making it a very "elite" course, available only to a few people who could afford a very steep price tag. But that didn't sit right with me—I wanted to get this information out to *everyone* who deserves to get it.

So, we finally came up with a price that is fair to everyone. The cost to you for this whole package — the 2 video tapes, the manual, the special report — is just \$79. That includes shipping and handling and everything else. IT'S EASY TO ORDER: Call our toll-free phone number --- 1-800-899-8153, ask for Department 13-B — and use your credit card. That's how to get this package shipped out to you by return first-class mail - you'll have it in a few short days! Or, if you prefer, you can fill out the Priority Order Form below, and mail it with your check or money order to the address shown at the bottom of the order form. We'll ship your package out first-class just as soon as we receive your order.

That's all there is to it. You have my *personal* guarantee your package will live up to your expectations... or you get your money back. This is the real thing, too — it's changed my life, and the lives of my loved ones. It's a confidence-booster, and the best way I've ever experienced to put you in control of your life 100%. So call right now... you never know when you're going to need the know-how and skills you're about to learn!

Sincerely,

Dr. Russell Horine

P.S. I almost forgot something important. We've only put together a small number of these X-Tec packages, so you really need to call *today* to make sure you get one reserved for you. Remember, you're not risking anything by doing this, because you have a full 3-month money-back guarantee... and remember, too, that we have been stopped before from getting information like this out to the public! It's a great deal, but like I said, there's a very real chance it could be removed from the market forever, just like that. So give us a call now at **1-800-899-8153**, and make sure you get your package. Thanks.

A Special Note From —Leo Costa, Jr. — Vice President, TRS

Dear Friend,

We've gotten some weird reactions from some people who see this amazing new fighting system for the first time.

Most are skeptical, because it just "sounds too simple to be true." Then, of course, when they see it action, they can't believe that something that truly <u>is</u> so simple can be so <u>devastatingly effective</u>. They're astonished when the fight is over and done with in the blink of an eye—no matter how "overmatched" one person may appear to be.

Well, let me clear something up for you here: It <u>is</u> simple. (This system has actually been successfully taught to people in wheelchairs!) And yet it <u>does</u> work, just as we say it does. That is the reason we have included the testimonials from real police officers and other military experts in this letter.

You may not believe us... you may not believe your own eyes... but you can't discount the word of men who make their living knowing...

How To Win Every Fight, Every Time, With Complete Confidence!

So please do not let your naturally-doubting mind keep you from trying this amazing new fighting system out for <u>yourself</u>. Remember, Russ has given you his word <u>and</u> a ridiculouslygenerous Money-Back Guarantee, so you risk absolutely nothing.

It's high time the "good guys" took back the world. Call today, so you can be sure to get one of the first packages by return first-class mail in just a couple of days.

> Thanks, **Leo** Costa J.

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I also understand why this powerful information must be kept out of the wrong hands – therefore, I am honoring your request not to le "outsiders" in on this exclusive package. I prefer to pay by credit card. Please charge my: Enclosed is my check (payable to TRS), for \$74.		
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COMBAT WEAPONCRAFT

Get The Picture

by Gabriel Suarez

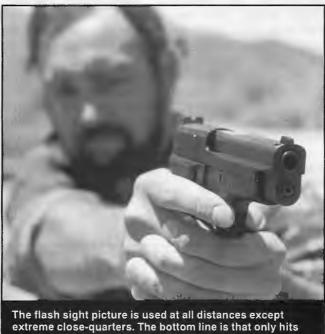
uch has recently been written about "point" or "instinct" handgun shooting being more natural than aimed fire. Brad Steiner, writing for a self-defense-oriented journal, advises unsighted point shooting is superior. He claims involuntary responses experienced in shoot-outs will necessitate looking at the adversary and not the sights — using sights in close quarters is impractical, slow, and impossible in combat.

Another author, Gene Zink, recently advocated point-shooting techniques at the TRA Expo, because using sights in close quarters requires excessive time. Another writer even claimed that using sights within 10 yards equaled suicide!

I believe these "experts" have not properly thought this matter through and strongly recommend using your sights for all combat shooting, except extremely close quarters.

There is a big difference, however, in the *time* spent on sighting, corresponding to the difficulty of each shot. You need to learn how sharp a focus is required — different for a five-yard fast-as-you-canhammer shot, than for a hostage-situation head shot, or a chest shot at 50 yards. How precise a sight picture the shot requires is learned only through practice.

In rapid succession, you must ID the target



extreme close-quarters. The bottom line is that only hits count — and the flash sight picture lets you hit. Photo: Peter G. Kokalis

and identify the spot to hit. Your visual focus should be on that spot, so your muscles know where to move the pistol when you think go! Ideally, this sharp visual focus on the target spot is simultaneous with target acquisition. It's like viewing your target with a telephoto, not a wide angle, lens: Don't look at his head. look at the spot between his eyes. Don't look at his chest, but his shirt button.

This is not tunnel vision, because tunnel vision discounts peripheral vision. With target focus you consciously see the spot to hit, but remain aware of peripheral views. Like gun-handling skills and mind-set, how you "look" at targets requires practice.

Next is presenting the

pistol from holster to target. This should be smooth, refined and free of superfluous movements and practiced by thousands of repetitions. Motion from holster to target should be reflexive. With practice you don't think, "Grip, clear, click, smack, look, press." You simply think, go! Where you "go" is wherever your eyes look, thus you "see" the target spot instead of just "noticing" the overall target. Where eyes go, attention follows: Where attention goes, action follows.

To illustrate, look at a target's chest, then without shifting focus bring the pistol to bear on his head. To illustrate further, look at one target then draw and bring your pistol to bear on another. Look at the single target. Look at the spot you would hit and draw to that spot. See how easy?

Once the pistol reaches the target spot, it must stop to shoot, and you must see it stop to be certain the shot will go where intended. Think: "See the spot, move to the spot, stop on the spot." As the pistol stops ontarget, you shift your focus from target spot to front sight. You are aware of the target in relation to your position and sights, but are not actively "looking" for it. As you see the front sight aligned on that target spot, shoot.

Ideally, stopping on the target spot, shift of focus and shooting are simultaneous. In very-closerange scenarios it's usually the case because you move as fast as possible — visually only following the physical action. You are not just moving quickly, but are "looking" equally fast.

When ranges increase or difficulty of the shot intensifies, you spend more time sighting to make *extra* sure you are "on." With practice you will know how tight a sight picture each shot requires. Because you get away with coarse sight pictures up close does not mean you need no sight picture at all.

Equally important is to see the front sight when the shot breaks, and see it leave the target spot on

Continued on page 65

FLAK

BUREAU OF ANTAGONISM, TERRORISM AND FRATRICIDE

Thank you for "BAT-F Troop Rides Again" (*SOF* August '94). Gone are the days of Elliot Ness and the Untouchables matching wits and weapons with *real* criminals like Capone, Nitty and others. Now, it's mostly possible technical violations committed by Louis Katona, John Lawmaster, Randy Weaver and the Branch Davidians.

It takes real men to burn a church to the ground with children in it, trash a man's home when he's not there, blow a woman's head off while she has a baby in her arms or physically abuse a woman and cause her to have a miscarriage. The Bureau of Antagonism, Terrorism and Fratricide is tough on the unborn and helpless.

John R. Colling Marate, Florida

ARABIAN JUSTICE

I did two tours in Saudi Arabia and found there is virtually no crime. You may ask why. One of the main reasons is that the two persons caught smuggling hash into the kingdom while I was there were executed at the end of the week. The law there is simple — you commit a felony, including dealing drugs, you go to chopchop square and part with your head.

America just doesn't really want to get tough

on crime. But getting tough works. You can bet that little shithead Michael Fay won't be spraying graffiti on cars anywhere in the world after getting his ass whipped with a cane.

Name withheld on request

NRA: LOVE IT OR LEAVE

Lately I have been reading more and more letters

to the editor expressing negative views of the NRA. One in particular blamed the NRA for putting guns in our children's hands.

We would be leaving our guns at the club if they were not there. The fact is the liberals want all our guns. Do these people that bad-mouth the NRA understand the

fine print and the games that must be played? I doubt it.

In my view, anyone that does not support the NRA's policies is anti-gun. The people that write these letters against the NRA must be liberal anti-gunners trying to divide us. Think about it. Some magazines try to show all sides, but why? There can be only one side: You are either for or against shooting and hunting sports.

Don't forget the antigunners and anti-hunters are in the same bed. So let the NRA do what they must to protect our shooting freedom. The NRA is up front watching it all and getting information that you and I will never hear about. Send them what money you can and support them. If you do not agree, at least shut up.

Geary Garvison South Haven, Michigan is the correct one?

They know that gun control will not cut crime; they know that gun control will leave victims helpless; they know the police cannot be there to help you. These people have their own agenda: to disarm us by any means possible.

It is time we stop preaching to the choir. We are systematically being disarmed while we shout



ANTI-GUNNERS AREN'T STUPID

It seems to me that we are wasting time shouting pro-gun statistics at our government and members of HCI. These people are educated and know well both sides of the gun issue. There is no doubt in my mind that they know the statistics better than we do. Knowing this, why are we wasting time trying to convince them that our position figures and statistics to people who know them, who don't care and who laugh at us while we expend our energy in useless debate. The anti-gunners are making progress while we do nothing more than get mad and try to "reason" with them. It is obvious that our government is no longer listening.

Lowry Wilson

Beckley, West Virginia

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GUNOWNERS' LAST STAND

We spend far too much time preaching to each other about what may well be the demise of gun ownership in America. We need to ask ourselves what we are actually prepared to do to stop those who would deprive us of a right that predated even our own Constitution.

Sure, we rally. We phone. We write letters. We send money. And we are ignored by a coterie of political elitists. We are branded as a lunatic fringe by those who are terrified by the thought of an armed citizenry demanding their rights.

The NRA, the largest and most powerful lobbying organization, is just that, a lobbying organization, run by lobbyists, to lobby and collect money. I'll continue to be an NRA member and donate to the ILA but with little hope for any meaningful or effective action from that quarter.

We as individual gun owners are going to have to make the cost too high for gun grabbers to tolerate, and that is likely to take a level of sacrifice none of us counted on. The gun grabbers know where to go to collect our firearms when a confiscation law is finally passed. On that day the requisite sacrifice for the defense of freedom will be all too apparent and that I will be killed is an accepted given. My only qualm comes from contemplating the penalty to my immortal soul for inflicting a lopsided kill ratio on whatever fascist sturmabteilung they send to violate my right and murder me if I resist.

If gun grabbers aren't going to respect us, per-

haps they should at least fear us. Fear may be a poor substitute for respect, but it is far better than the contempt in which they now hold us.

Dana F. Bonnett Twp. of Washington, New Jersey

DELTA MEANS SELFLESS SERVICE

Thanks for the article on Randy and Gordy ("Above And Beyond the Call," *SOF* Sept. '94), the fellow unit members that were awarded the Medal of Honor.

The most important thing about the awards is something that, unless you're in the unit, you could never know. That is the fact that any two Delta operators would have done exactly the same thing as Randy and Gordy. Such is the level of selfless service that is the unspoken creed of this organization. I felt it was time to let that fact be known in light of the disturbing times we Americans are enduring now.

Let us also never forget the other unit members who gave their lives for freedom in Somalia: Dan Busch, Tim Martin, Earl Filmore and Matt Rierson. May we live up to the sacrifices they made.

One minor technical note: We use customized M1911A1 Government Model .45s as our standard sidearm, not M9 Berettas.

"One Of The Boys" Fort Bragg, North Carolina

HELL'S A RELATIVE THING

As a Desert Storm vet, it's whiny letters like Edmond Gaudelli's that really get my goat ("FLAK" *SOF* Aug. '94).



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Here's a guy still bitching about no brass band at the airport when he got home and three years later still wants people to kiss his ass for doing his duty. This is a guy with a family, a good job and good health.

What the hell else do you want, Edmond? If you feel like crying on someone's shoulder, go to the nearest homeless shelter and find a fellow Desert Storm vet whose old lady dumped him while he was gone and found himself out of a job as well. I'm sure he'll agree that your life is a living hell compared to his.

Tech. Sgt. James R. Dowell, USAF Tucson, Arizona

MISSING LINK

I have every issue of SOF except October '93 (I left it in a rental car). Is there any way to get back issues? If so, what's the drill? Tom Tasman Chicago, Illinois

Limited numbers of SOF back issues are available. Cost is \$5 per issue, and that includes postage. Many of the early issues are sold out as are a few

of the more current ones. Call us to find out if the issue(s) you want are still in stock.

If you are looking for a specific article but don't know the year and month it appeared, we will try to help you find it but can offer no guarantees. You need to know either the topic, title, author or roughly what was on the



cover for us to have a good chance of finding an article for you.

October '93 had "U.S. Navy SEALs: What It Takes!" written by Larry Bailey as the cover story. There are approximately 100 copies of this issue remaining.

WRITE TO SOF

We invite reader com-

ments: Send letters to SOF, c/o FLAK, P.O. Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306. Due to limited space we reserve the right to edit for content and brevity. Please include an address or phone number. We will withhold your name on request. ℜ



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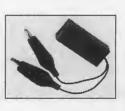
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The Great Azeri Oil Scam

Con Man Bilks American Mercs in Baku

by Thomas Goltz

Western companies are in pursuit of the right to drill for an

in pursuit of the right to drill for an estimated \$50 billion worth of oil in the Caspian Sea off the former Soviet republic of Azerbaijan. But the waters of competition are being muddied by a new and roguish scoundrel in their midst, who is using an opportunistic but novel approach to getting the jump on the rest: supplying the Azeri government with Afghan mercenaries and former U.S. military trainers to assist in the ongoing but undeclared war with Armenia over the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh.

In an arena dominated by international giants such as British Petroleum (BP), Chevron, Amoco and Shell, few people had heard of the Marietta, Georgia, based MEGA Oil until it appeared in Azerbaijan in early 1992. The company's CEO, Gary Best, was not even an oil man, and is In a scenario similar to the Balkans, the breakup of the Soviet Union has sparked Armenians and Azeris to fight over long-disputed territory. In fighting last year, Azerbaijan lost some 20% of its territory. Photo: Stanley Greene

described by former associates as an "importer of watches" from southeast Asia to the United States.

Even more unlikely is the alleged reason for setting up an oil company in the first place. According to one of

"The point was to train young Azeris to be able to defend their country out of a sense of patriotism ... The last thing they needed was a bunch of mercenaries to fight their war for them."

the company's early partners, retired Brigadier General Harry "Heine" Aderholt, MEGA's (or Gary Best's) involvement in the former Soviet Union evolved from the idea of tracking down American POWs allegedly still held in Vietnam. At that time, and far removed from the oil patch, the program was that the Moscowbased Soviet Peace Committee would use their good offices in Hanoi to secure the release of missing Americans, while Best would use his relationship with Afghan Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar to release Soviet POWs held since the end of the Afghan war. This was to have been a not-for-profit humanitarian venture.

The project failed to track down any Americans, but Best succeeded in getting some Russians released by the Afghan mujahideen — or at least claiming credit for it.

"It was Gary Best's project and he should be congratulated on his success," said Aderholt in a 40-minute telephone conversation with me from Baku to Florida. "It is about the only good thing I have to say about him now."

But further POW release plans would require further financing, and Aderholt had a unique plan to earn it - rework some of the 35,000 derelict oil wells in the USSR, using Western technology. The most promising patch, it appeared, was in newly independent Azerbaijan, where 100 years of erratic, inefficient Sovietstyle production had left literal forests of creaking, rusting derricks "The Azerbaijani army, or what passed for one, was being torn apart by the Armenians in Karabakh, mainly due to a lack of training," Aderholt said. "I told the government [of then President Ayaz Mutalibov] that they should make an official request to the United States for a mobile training team. I also told them they would not get it, but that it was best to have an official request on record. Then I told them to start shopping around the private sector for advisers to do the same thing."

To that end, Aderholt had an idea. With the help of his old comrade in arms, General Richard Secord, he of-

Enclaved Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh hold steadfastly to territorial gains, amid charges of ethnic cleansing and war crimes. Losses by ill-trained, ill-led and ill-equipped Azeris sometimes number 10 to one. Photo: Stanley Greene



trying to suck the last drops of oil from ancient subterranean oil fields. Aside from oil-field technology, there was also another sector where the Azeris needed help: in military matters.

The attraction to promoters — both legitimate and cut from the cloth of Gary Best — is the extensive but decrepit and inefficiently worked oil fields in Azerbaijan, and off-shore in the Caspian Sea, where estimates of reserves run as high as \$50 *billion*. Photo: Stanley Greene



fered to train 5,000 Azeri troops for rapid deployment missions in the escalating war over Karabakh. The price tag was \$10 million, with a special emergency medical evacuation program thrown in gratis. A query by the Azeris about the possibility of hiring Afghan mercenaries was rejected by Aderholt and Secord.

"The point was to train young Azeris to be able to defend their country out of a sense of patriotism," Aderholt said. "The last thing they needed was a bunch of mercenaries to fight their war for them."

Aderholt points out that the military assistance program was to be regarded on its own merits and had nothing to do with MEGA Oil's project to increase the productivity of old oil wells, although a portion of those profits were still to have been funneled into the POW release project. But the coincidental identity of most, if not *all*, of the players in the two projects stands out — particularly Secord. When he made his

When The Old Boy Net Catches A Carp

Through adroit use of his talent as a con man and by prostituting contacts in the POW/MIA network, Gary Best was able to assume an identity as one of the Good Guys, further involving himself in circles of those who espouse, fund and act in humanitarian capacities. With these illusionary credentials, and becoming known by the company he was keeping, Best was able to set into motion schemes that were far beyond his ability to marshal. Dependent upon others to make things actually work, Best was at a loss when the men of substance left him, and he was left to his own devices. Best's own devices, it becomes obvious, are but treachery, deceit and plain old scam artistry. Such a house of cards must ultimately fall: Karma catches up with the best of them if they linger too long at the scene.

Not only was Gary Best able to con real players such as Ponder Oil into investing millions in his shell corporation MEGA Oil, but when they showed up in Azerbaijan with real equipment to do a real job, he then in turn used them to further establish his legitimacy. And he did the same with the peripheral projects, such as providing military training and medevac facilities. Combine that with the fact that most of his deals were made with Azeris who were working more for their own ends than for national interest, and that Best simply didn't know what he was doing in military matters (not that he did in oil either), and the die was cast for failure as soon as the real talent got fed up and went home. As always, people who freelance as military advisers, medics or other semivolunteers at the hands-on level are the first to lose.

SOF has interviewed a number of men who were sucked in by Best, almost all of them duped because of the credibility he had assumed from rubbing shoulders with real players. The stories are pretty much the same: of the too-good-to-be-true recruiting offers through the old boy net, (some even posed at the main gate at Fort Benning), the insurance coverage that never existed, the pay that never would be, and of the impossibility of the situation in-country.

True to form, Best's unethical conduct eventually ruined relations with the very people they were to have been helping, even to the point that supplies to the now-unpaid volunteer training and medical cadre were cut. The host country was to become displeased with Best and anyone brought in by Best. And when some of the more professional cadre continued to train Azeris with or without supplies, they were to see their protégés wasted as cannon fodder. When the effort faltered as professionals from ground level on up distanced themselves from Best, Best then filled in with Afghan mujahideen and unqualified Western hirees which, when mixed with untrained Azeris, resulted in the predictable battlefield results. As one recruited cadre — who gave up a career position to join the effort to help the Azeris — succinctly put it, "Best is one of the lowest-life pieces of shit I have ever seen, and what he is doing to those people [Azeris], it is unforgivable."

Of the roughly 30 or so former military trainers who were recruited to train the Azeris, it is not known how many are still there. All but the most idealistic were driven off early on when it was clear there would be virtually no material support, no overall strategy — and no pay. That little was accomplished is not surprising in light of the following, typical, quote from one of the participants interviewed by *SOF*:

"When I got there, there wasn't any training going on at all. Apparently before that they had tried to do a bit of training and brought smoke jumpers for some reason. They were going to apparently try and get a little airborne school going and were doing some heliocasting and some rappelling but the soldlers were too illequipped; it was snowing at the time and the soldiers were going out there in bedroom slippers trying to heliocast and rappel and they were wanting to do this stuff, just dying to learn anything that we could teach them, but we couldn't take them out there, they didn't have any clothes or uniforms or boots."

Others interviewed stated that's pretty much how it was all over at ground level. How was it in the higher echelons of Gary Best's pretend army? There did not appear to be a discernible chain of command, but the demeanor of the activity was the same. All who have dealt with Best, from *SOF* Publisher Robert K. Brown on down, have offered the same candid, unprintable assessment. Watch for a story on the life and times of Gary Best in a future issue.

-SOF Staff

first appearance in Azerbaijan early in 1992, for example, Secord came at MEGA's expense. Even stranger was the special privileges afforded MEGA from the Azerbaijani security departments.

When MEGA's primary investor, the Alice, Texas, based Ponder International, first brought oil-rig reworking equipment to the country, the company's "rope, dope and smoke" (oilmanese for the essentials of the trade) landed at a military airport where the usual customs formalities (and even passport control) were dispensed with.

"We thought it was a little odd, but we just wanted to believe that it was due to Gary's good contacts," said Ponder President Joe Ponder at a rendezvous in a smoky Baku bar. "It was just the start of a lot of funny business with Gary Best."

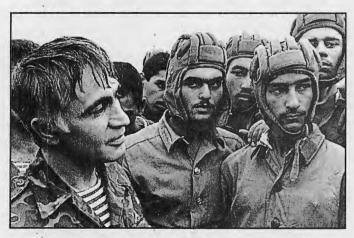
Other "funny business" included the arrival of planes on the military airstrip that had nothing to do with Ponder's project, as well as the surreptitious arrival of other American "oilmen" who "didn't know a well from a hole in the ground," according to Joe Ponder. Many of the strangers stayed in a dacha complex managed by the Interior Ministry just north of the capital, fueling speculation at the time that the new republic of Azerbaijan had worked a deal with On an earlier trip to Moscow to put together a convoluted POW exchange deal between Afghanistan, Russia, Vietnam and the United States are Gen. Harry "Heine" Aderholt (center), Gary Best (rear), POW activist Tom Flaherty (right), and their Russian translator Elena. Photo: courtesy Tom Flaherty



the CIA, trading off the use of its territory for covert activities against

neighboring Iran in exchange for "protection" from Russia.

According to Aderholt, however, there was neither a contract for the military assistance program, nor for any work in the oil field. Secord, for his part, told the international oil jourAderholt also parted company with Best in August of that year due to the latter's unethical behavior. Pressure by the U.S. Embassy in Baku on the Elchibey government was also a factor: Despite the fact that private American companies are involved in



Rahim Gaziyev, Azeri minister of defense throughout MEGA period, is thought to have stolen millions earmarked for national army, to build private armies — specifically, renegade 709th "Ganje" Brigade of Colonel Surat Husseinov, which toppled nationalist regime of Abulfez Elchibey in June 1993. Gaziyev was subsequently jailed by Heydar Aliyev for treason. Photo: Oleg Litvin

nal *Nefte Compass* that Mutalibov could not make up his mind whether he wanted to build up a national army to do battle with the Armenians, or concentrate on creating a presidential guard to protect him from domestic opponents.

In any event, domestic pressure forced Mutalibov to resign in March 1992, and a nationalist academic named Abulfez Elchibey was elected president in June of that year, at which point MEGA's problems began for real.

Ponder had begun work on several Caspian Sea oil rigs in May, but soon after the nationalists came to power, they announced that MEGA was not a registered company in Azerbaijan, that there was no contract, and thus no payment due.

"We never got paid a dime for our work and we have invoices and losses amounting to \$13 million," Ponder said. "I guess we were not sufficiently diligent in checking out Gary Best ... before we got into bed."

Ponder Oil left the MEGA consortium in November but decided to stay on in Azerbaijan in hopes of getting its own contracts in the service sector, with patchy (no worse than the major oil firms) results. Secord and military training in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states (and Turkish trainers in Azerbaijan, albeit at the expense of the Turkish government to prevent misallocation), MEGA was shown the door in 1992.

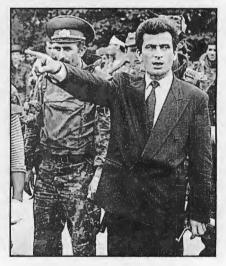
But following a putsch against Elchibey in June 1993 and the return from political exile of former

Azerbaijan strongman Heydar Aliyev (or, more specifically, the continued rise in power of Azerbaijani millionaire, Rasul Guliyev, now chairman of parliament), Gary Best was back. And when he returned, the MEGA "Oil" program was much more specifically geared toward military assistance than it was on the oil patch — much to the chagrin of the original architects of both projects as well as rival firms, big and small, playing the Caspian oil sweepstakes.

"Dick Secord and myself have had nothing to do with MEGA Oil or the military training project since August 1992," Aderholt said. "I last spoke to Gary Best in November of 1993, when he called to ask if we would come back. We said 'no way' so long as he was heading the project. We thought it would be a disaster and it has been."

Best, a man with no former experience in either oil or the army, has been so reluctant to speak with the press that he has become virtually invisible in Baku. But traces of his attempt to rejuvenate the MEGA Oil/ military assistance program are everywhere in Azerbaijan. In addition to using his connections to the Afghan mujahideen to provide a group of approximately 1,000 mercenaries for frontline use in the war over Karabakh (international military journals suggest a total of 2,500 Afghans there), he also attempted to duplicate the Secord/Aderholt "force multiplier" project by bringing in several dozen Americans with special forces backgrounds to train the Azerbaijani army — although quality was not necessarily a criteria in Best's selection process. His "recruits" were generally both long in tooth and long out of the loop.

One of the trainers, speaking to this correspondent in a Baku bar on the grounds of absolute anonymity, but clearly motivated by a growing disgust with Best, suggested that while the core group came from "a small circle of professionals with previous U.S. government contracts in places like Afghanistan and Iraq," many of the Americans brought to Azerbaijan were "the kind of psychos who answer ads in magazines." He said that of some 35 men contracted for



Colonel Surat Husseinov — "self-made millionaire" and "hero of Azerbaijan" for devotion to war effort ... In reality, a GRU agent whose money came as middleman for arms purchases from **Russian 104th Airborne Division** stationed in Ganje, and the money man behind MEGA Oil/Gary Best scam. Promoted to "Generalissimo" of Karabakh war effort, summer 1992, he was dismissed along with Rahim Gaziyev in February 1993, whereupon he pulled his men and equipment off front, causing general collapse. Seen here in June 1993, after unsuccessful effort by government to rein him in, telling his men to march on Baku and "clean out the filth." A week later, the elected government fled the capital without a fight, and Husseinov was elected prime minister. Gary Best was soon persona grata again. **Photo: Thomas Goltz**



Helicopter evacuation of Kelbadzhar, after collapse of northern front in Karabakh due to Surat Husseinov pulling men off line. Photo: Thomas Goltz

the training operation, only a handful remained. Broken promises about working conditions was one reason many had left. Best reportedly seized "everything from passports to peanut butter" from one group of arriving trainers, and has fudged on payment. Another reason for disenchantment with the Best project came when the Azerbaijan Ministry of Defense began using the elite troops for cannon fodder in the Karabakh conflict.

"You may as well use a Mercedes to plow a minefield," an American trainer said. "You might like what we do or you might not like it, but we are professionals, and we are not used to seeing our efforts being wasted in such a manner."

The wastage occurred this winter, when Azerbaijan, after losing some 20% of its territory to Armenian arms over the past year, launched a massive offensive against entrenched positions. The attack, spearheaded by the Afghan mercenaries and the newly trained commando units, petered out after two months and huge losses. Western observers say the Azeris lost at least 5,000 men (some say as many as 10,000) and gained little ground. Armenian loses were a tenth of that.

One reason for the high rate of attrition, in the opinion of expert observers, is that in addition to being still improperly trained, many of the Azeri elite groups were issued dysfunctional equipment, such as antitank rockets that were designed for practice, with no armor-penetrating capability.

"Practice rounds are a lot cheaper, and the middleman can keep the difference," the source cynically pointed out.

Weirder still are Best's activities behind the lines. In addition to the training of Azeri commandos and, presumably, the supply of weaponry both good and bad, he also began using his restored status to get back at some of his former partners. On 18 August 1993, backed by about a dozen armed men in military uniforms, Best broke into Ponder's Azerbaijan headquarters and seized a satellite telephone and other electronic equipment at gunpoint, and threatened to return to take other oil-sector related

provisions. Ponder made an official complaint to the government of Azerbaijan, has asked the FBI to investigate and has lodged a suit against

Yaqub ("The Mule") Mamedov,

of running his own war, he was

arrested but died in prison while

commanders who discovered his

dead men ... until he sold corpses

charges he murdered frontline

awaiting trial for treason, including

tricks — like hiding bodies in refrigerators while collecting combat pay of

back to families. Photo: Thomas Goltz

sculptor turned militia commander in

the frontline city of Agdam. Accused

Meanwhile, rumors of yet another military training/supply program comingled with the oil sector are now making the rounds. This time the talk involves a former Azerbaijani negotiator with contacts in the United

> Kingdom and United States. If this is true, the Azeris had better keep real people in charge because odds are good they will need a real armed force. The fragile peace accord signed last May between representatives from Armenia and Karabakh and the Azerbaijan government to stop the six-year-old conflict may or may not hold. If the cease-fire fails, sources in Yerevan, Armenia, say that an Armenian offensive is likely.

Istanbul-based

Thomas Goltz has been covering the Azeri-Armenian conflict almost from its start. This is his first contribution to SOF. $\tilde{\varkappa}$

Best and MEGA Oil in a Texas court.

"Gary Best is making himself a lot of enemies," said one former associate. "And Azerbaijan is not making itself too many friends with people like him around — in or out of the oil patch."

Sources close to the military support program gone awry say that several of the trainers have decided to express their anger about not getting paid by floating a \$10,000 price over Best's head.

The BIG Bang

Beira Oil Depot Annihilated In SAS Revenge Raid

Text & Photos by Bob McKenna

Resolute mosquitoes circled my head in close, whining orbits as I impatiently waited in the hot, dank air of the Mozambican tidal swamp for a radio message from Captain Colin Willis, my second in command. After our struggle through the slimy, deep muck of the mangrove swamps, he and seven men had slipped away to plant explosives on the fuel and water pipelines that ran between the oil docks and our target, before they moved into their firing positions.

Once in place, our combined elements would be able to initiate a devastating crossfire from our RPG-7s and RPDs, but Colin was taking longer than planned. Including those eight men, there were 17 of us concealed by the darkness around Mozambique's national fuel storage depot. We were about to fire it up.

Big Dare

Mozambique's port city of Beira was a strange place for a Rhodesian Special Air Service captain to be, dressed in Mozambican Frelimo camouflage, covered in mud and black face paint, feeding mosquitoes. It was 23 March 1979, seven years into the Rhodesian war against communistinspired, trained and armed guerrilla fighters intent on overthrowing the Rhodesian government. The SAS was about to execute one of its most audacious attacks of the war to date, and, in the interests of "plausible deniability," give all the blame/credit to someone else.

Mozambique borders the entire eastern side of Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), and the Mozambican communist government of Samora Machel had long been providing Robert Mugabe's ZANLA terrorists with extensive support in logistics and training. The Mozambique national resistance, Renamo, had sprung up to fight Machel's regime, and Rhodesian special forces sometimes assisted



Rhodesian SAS commandos testfire RPGs from deck of South African strike craft prior to insertion into Beira.

them. Because they shared the goal of toppling Machel and replacing him with a pro-Western democratic government, and because Renamo sometimes provided good intelligence on ZANLA activities, the relationship between Renamo and the Rhodesian SAS was mutually beneficial. The night's work ahead of us was to be one of our major combined operations.

In the spirit of the SAS motto "Who Dares Wins," my raiding party had infiltrated Mozambique's second largest port to blow the Munhava oil storage depot. Many large Frelimo (Mozambique army) garrisons were located in and around the city, along with a major air base and several AAA and coastal defense installations. Just two kilometers from downtown, the depot was in a well-defended and heavily populated area on an estuary that formed part of the harbor.

Supposedly secure because of their distance from Rhodesia, and from areas of Renamo guerrilla activity, local troops did little patrolling, although their AA guns were reported to be constantly manned. During our approach to the fuel farm we had seen a few policemen patrolling a road, but no military activity. We knew that would change as soon as we started our attack.

Rhodie Revenge

In addition to punishing Machel and enhancing Renamo's credibility, there was another strong motivation for our raid. Just a few months earlier, ZANLA guerrillas had damaged a fuel storage depot in Salisbury, Rhodesia. We wanted revenge, and we wanted to issue a warning that in the future such acts would bring retribution in kind.

Comprising more than 40 huge fuel tanks, several sheds containing thousands of 200-liter fuel drums, and a group of LPG tanks, the Munhava depot represented an investment of many millions of dollars that the Frelimo government, already in dire economic straits because of failed Marxist economic policies, could ill afford to lose.

There were many secondary targets as well: fuel and water lines, arms and general supply warehouses, and the Beira power station. As commander of the operation I had to sort out which ones were feasible for 16 men to hit in a few hours of creeping about placing explosive charges. My final list of targets included some nearby railway lines, power lines, water lines, fuel lines and of course the fuel depot itself.

Although there were still other valuable targets in the area - such as the arms warehouses and power station — I had neither the men nor the time to attack them. Still, I developed an ambitious plan and would deliver the appropriate messages. We had every expectation of success: Our intelligence was good and current, my men were well-rehearsed and psyched, and we were, after all, the SAS. Our biggest potential problem was reaching the depot undetected.

Mission OK — Exfil, Maybe

My team soon found itself behind on a tight schedule. I had no doubts about destroying the fuel farm 250 us and get away before dawn. If we missed the boat, we were faced with a very long walk back to Rhodesia. That transport, provided by the South African navy and Recce commandos, could not wait. Their situation was political dynamite and if the sun had risen on two gray SA warships sitting in Beira's harbor, there would have been heads rolling in headquarters from Cape Town to Pretoria.

The South Africans had made it clear that they would leave us if necessary — they had no intention of being discovered in their neighbor's backyard. In addition to transportation, South Africa provided us with a good deal of help in the operation. We arrived at the harbor in South African strike craft, were ferried to the beach in rubber Zodiacs by South African special forces, and had been given training and intelligence assistance from their covert operatives.

We had known, of course, that the operation would entail a high degree of risk. Taking out a target in an urban area was an entirely different proposition from a rural attack, where the strike force could melt into the endless bush and vanish after making a hit. In an urban setting the scales were tipped more in the defenders' favor. We knew that small groups of Frelimo soldiers patrolled the city streets at night and that there were guards on duty around the fuel depot itself. In



meters to our front, but our escape depended on reaching a rendezvous point in time for our transport to meet

be picked up by the Zodiacs waiting just offshore. Planning the operation had been a formidable team effort.

But the de-

then get back to

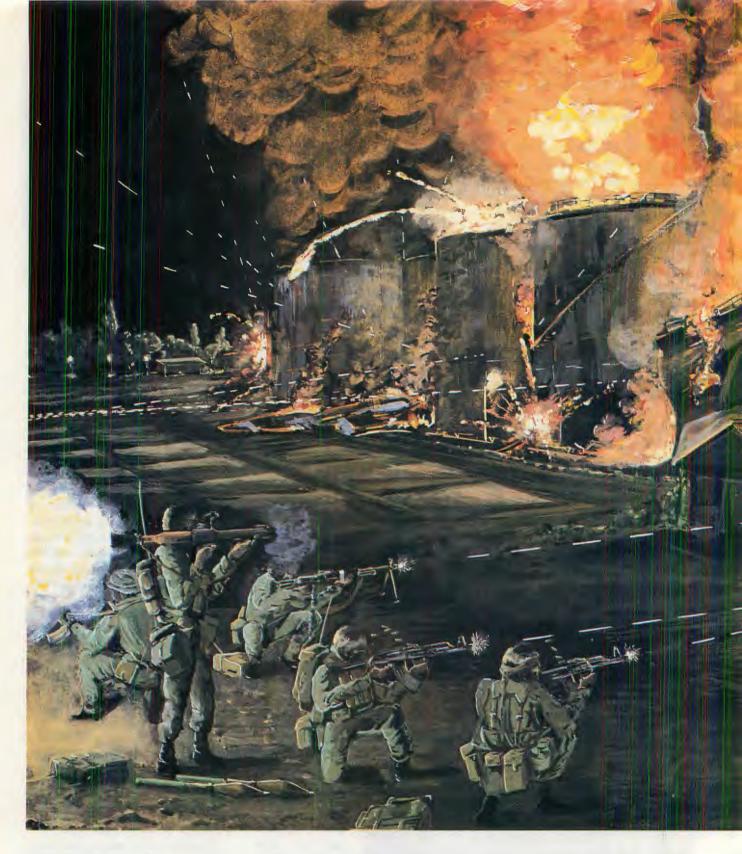


Mock-up of Munhava oil storage complex. At secret training base in South Africa, strike team planned every aspect of infiltration, raid and exfiltration.

Aerial reconnaissance and the activities of a South African agent had provided good intelligence on the fuel depot and the surrounding area. We knew the entire lay-out, but didn't know which tanks would be full and which ones empty. So, pretending to be on an anti-terrorist course, we had visited the fuel storage facilities in Salisbury and cleared up a few technical uncertainties. During the tour we found a couple of staff members who had actually helped set up the Beira facility and who still had comprehensive knowledge of it.

After I obtained their signatures on copies of the Official Secrets Act, they gave us lots of essential information about our target. By the time we finished talking to them we knew which tanks would contain gasoline, which would likely hold diesel, and which ones would hold less flammable liquids. We also were advised to avoid hitting the low-pressure gas tanks in the middle of the Beira depot as the explosion that would result if they went up would undoubtedly wipe us out as well. A particularly useful bit of information, that.

Excellent aerial photos were taken of the target area and a South African agent had taken pictures from the ground, but all the photos had been taken during the day. I needed to see what activity there was after dark, and especially what kind of security lighting we would have to contend with. So one night I went out to New Sarum Airbase and climbed into a B-57 Canberra for a midnight overflight



at high level. Lying in the nose bubble at 12,000 feet I saw to my relief and pleasure that while there were lots of lights around the perimeter of the depot, they all faced inward, illuminating the fuel tanks and not the areas I needed for firing positions. Finally, after weeks of gathering information and formulating a plan, we were ready for the next phase of the operation. Rehearsals are an absolutely essential part of most military operations, but especially special ops. They often take far longer than the mission itself and must be repeated until every aspect of the task is practiced to perfection. Because this job required working with the South African navy and special forces, our rehearsals had to include them and their equipment. Since they couldn't bring their ships to Rhodesia, we went to South Africa.

A week of intensive training followed, during which we combined our normal SAS skills with new ones. Of some concern was the prospect of boarding rubber boats from the decks of strike craft, then climbing back up on board the ships, but we practiced

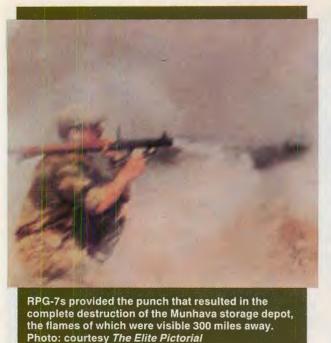


until we could do it without problems at night in the open ocean. By the end of the rehearsal period, I was confident that we were as ready as we would ever be. My South African counterpart and I contacted our respective HQs and were told to continue as planned. We moved to Durban, boarded two strike craft and set off into the Indian Ocean, heading north for Beira some 800 miles away.

Slip Sliding Away

I checked my watch again, and gave serious consideration to starting the attack without Colin. We had lost a lot of time in the mangrove swamps. Four Zodiacs, with outboard motors encased in styrofoam to reduce noise, had landed us on the shore a few miles up the estuary. We had headed for the dispersal point near the depot, but mud — thick, foul, sometimes thigh-deep mud mud that had not shown up on the aerial photos or agents' reports, got in the way.

Beira had been built near mangrove swamps, and because the Zo-



diacs dropped us farther up the river than planned, we had to go through some of the swamp to reach our objective. We were soon wading through the mud, slipping and sliding through tidal channels. Heavily loaded with four RPG-7 rocket launchers, six RPD machine guns, AKs, explosive charges and accessories, radios and medical equipment, we had some rough going before we finally reached dry land.

Intense heat and humidity added to our woes and sweat poured down our faces, making streaks in our camouflage paint. Several times men had to be hauled out of the mud by their rifles and, by the time we had all slithered out, we had used a lot of energy, and worse, time.

I ordered a brief break, even though we were already behind schedule, and thought of ways to get some of that time back: Some of our caution would have to be sacrificed in the interest of speed.

Eat, Drink And Be Merry...

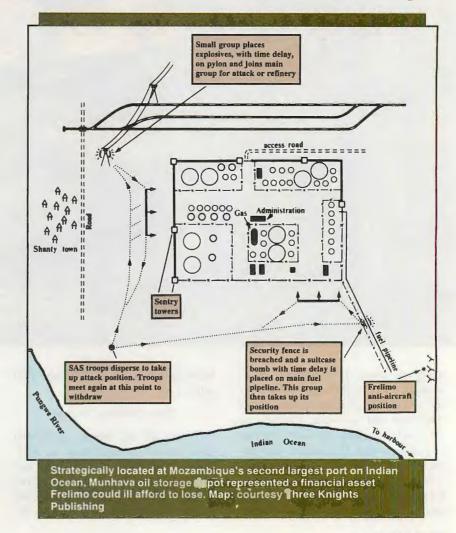
Fortunately the ground was harder and flatter beyond the swamps, and ambient light from the nearby city softened the blackness of the mangrove swamp, so we moved quickly and made up some time. At our dispersal point, Colin and his team split off for their objectives and firing positions and I took my team to ours. We moved into place 250 meters from the tanks, in waist-high grass, loaded our rocket launchers and stood by to open fire immediately if any alarm sounded from sentries or patrols. I dispatched Pete Cole and three men to plant explosives on power pylons and railroad tracks, and within half an hour they were back, charges placed.

Across a small rice paddy separating us from the shantytown, we could hear people laughing and shouting, dogs barking and chickens squawking. A loud

local beer hall was in full swing, but its patrons were only concerned with their music and grog and not the least bit interested in what might be going on in the darkness around them. There was a refuse dump not far down the road, and we could hear trash trucks rolling in and out and dumping their loads. All the noise from normal activities was reassuring — obviously we had not been seen.

Waiting in the long grass and looking at the enormous fuel tanks just in front of us, I hoped that the experts in Salisbury were correct in their assurances that each tank had a berm around it big enough to contain the entire contents of the tank if it ruptured. The tanks were sure big, and we were sure close.

Meanwhile Colin and his men were traveling as fast as caution allowed around to the other side of the depot. Risk of discovery, however, was slowing their movements, and they had to make many listening stops. Their route took them parallel to one side of the fuel farm and they had no idea where the guards were patrolling. Also, the fuel pipeline they planned to sever with a demo charge was very close to an anti-aircraft battery and required a stealthy approach. In due course, Colin and team managed to



cut through a security fence, place their charges, and withdraw to their firing positions, but not without running well past our midnight H-hour. Finally, at half past midnight, Colin radioed his readiness.

Lighting Up The Sky

As soon as I heard Colin's voice my anxiety fell away and I stood up in the waist-high grass and aimed my RPG-7 at the nearest fuel tank. I heard the safety catches of my men's weapons click off all around me. I fired, and even before my rocket hit the tank, everyone else opened up, pouring a hail of RPG-7 rockets, armorpiercing machine gun fire, and colored tracers into the tanks. Within seconds, Colin's men on the other side of the depot commenced firing as well.

Almost immediately a huge gasoline tank exploded into flames. The thought, "Fuck, we're fried," flashed through my mind, but I watched in fascination as the huge tank melted like it was made of chocolate. As my loader shoved another rocket into the front of my RPG, another tank went up, then another, and our cover of darkness burned away to an intense light, brighter than day.

The heat was intense and growing as more fuel poured into the conflagration: By then the other RPG operator in my group had fired his allocated three missiles, and my machine gunners a hundred rounds apiece, so we moved down the side of the compound to another position and resumed firing.

An ongoing series of bangs, booms and explosions from the other side of the depot indicated that Colin's team was having equally good results. The inferno was now consuming so much air that a wind started up blowing inward from all directions into the flames. Tracers were crisscrossing the sky, and there were terrific flashes as our rockets exploded into the fuel tanks.

Soon, massive black clouds of smoke were billowing into the sky and there was a reddish glow from firelight reflected off the smoke, supplementing the more direct orange light cast by the flames. Images of Dante's Inferno came to mind.

Standing in the grass, casting shadows now instead of hiding in them, and still blasting away with rockets and tracers, we were in growing danger of discovery. The heavy volume of gunfire that we poured into the depot, and of course the raging flames, completely suppressed any reaction from government sentries, who by now were no doubt miles away. Carefully planned arcs of fire prevented us from hitting the LPG tanks in the middle of the compound, but there remained a possibility that they could blow because of the heat from the burning gas and diesel. I decided that it was time to go and called a cease-fire to my team, and to Colin on the radio.

As my group started to move back to the RV, we took our only casualties when a burst of fire came out of the shantytown. Our Renamo guide took a couple of hits and died instantly. Pete Cole was wounded by a bullet that hit him in the hand. Our medic soon had him sorted out and mobile, but we had to leave the guide where he fell.

Even before

we stopped shooting and started moving away, Beira's defenders had come up alive and put their various weapons into operation. Gunners of all types and calibers of AA guns were pouring streams of ordnance into the sky because they mistakenly thought that they were under aerial attack. We could see flak

ISRAELI CONNECTION

Abandoning the idea that a "blue water" navy was essential for their national security, South African military planners of the 1970s decided to focus on an ability to control the littoral instead. With that in mind, and considering the few potential trading partners they had at the time, they opted for Israeli Reshef missile patrol boats, which they call Minister Class strike craft.

Displacing 430 tons fully loaded, with a 62-meter length and 8-meter beam, these strike craft are capable of speeds well over 32 knots. At economical cruising speed, their four diesel engines can carry them 5,800 kilometers without refueling. Normal armament consists of two 76mm dual-purpose guns, two 20mm cannons, two 12.7mm twin machine guns, and six Scorpion antiship missiles. Designed with commando-carrying capabilities in mind, there is a troop compartment aft, and missiles and turrets can be removed to provide working deck space.

Travelling in one of these boats as a non-paying passenger is quite a trip. Ten men and their gear do a good job of crowding the troop compartment. They sleep on bunks fastened to the bulkheads or clustered around a tiny table bolted to the deck in the middle of the "cabin." Since the compartment is at the extreme aft end of the boat, motion from pitching, yawing and rolling is at its worst, with attendant seasickness a constant problem.

On our operation to Beira the boats were configured without ASMs to enable us to carry, assemble and launch Zodiacs from a clear deck. Versatile, swift and deadly, the Minister Class boats will be the mainstay of the South African navy for years to come.



 RSA Minister-Class strike craft

 modified Israeli Reshef missile patrol

 boats, were used to clandestinely

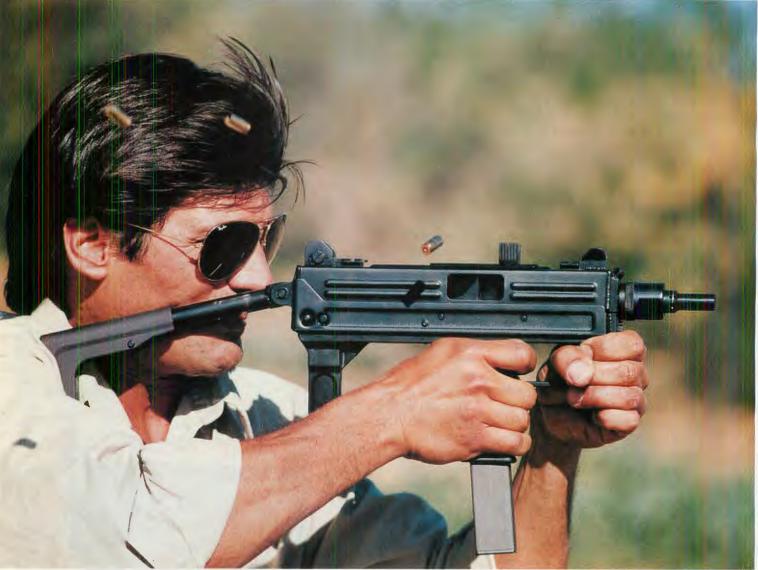
 insert Rhodesian SAS strike team.

bursting over the town — and bursting against the sides of buildings too, as panicked gunners failed to elevate muzzles before pulling triggers.

Thousands of AK-47s and machine guns, 7.62mm, 12.7mm and 14.5mm

Continued on page 71

MP9: Offic



William Batterman Ruger's first firearms design was not the .22 LR semiautomatic pistol he introduced in 1950. While this pistol propelled Sturm, Ruger & Co. Inc. into a string of successes unparalleled in the history of U.S. firearms manufacturing, one of Ruger's first conceptualizations was a belt-fed machine gun he designed while employed at Auto-Ordnance Corp. in Bridgeport, Connecticut (made famous by their Thompson submachine gun). However, it was 1946 and no one was interested in new military small arms as warehouses were glutted with World War II weaponry.

Bill Ruger has recently returned to the rapid fire arena

Firing from a strong shoulder mount, and employing the sights provided, the SMG provides greater hit probability than a handgun.

with the introduction of the MP9 submachine gun (SMG), a firearm focused exclusively on the law enforcement and military marketplace. While both semiautomatic and selective-fire Mini-14s have filled police rifle racks throughout the country for many years, Sturm, Ruger & Co. Inc. is determined to push for a significant share of police small arms inventories. Their centerfire revolver and semiautomatic pistol series are largely directed to this audiial Firepower

Ruger Builds A Better Burp Gun

Text & Photos by Peter G. Kokalis

ence, as is more obviously their M-77 Mark II Countersniper Rifle (see "Ruger/Leupold Countersniper System," SOF Oct. '94).

During the late 1980s, famed Israeli gun designer Uzi Gal developed a prototype of a highly advanced version of his UZI submachine gun, called the Model 201. While it retained the unlocked blowback operation found on most submachine guns, the Model 201 dropped the more common open-bolt, advanced primer ignition method of firing in favor of closed-bolt fire by means of a hammer mechanism and spring-loaded firing pin. Bill Ruger purchased Gal's design and then proceeded to extensively revamp it.

Several salient features of the original UZI submachine gun remain in place. The wrap-around bolt, taken from the Czech Vz 23, 24, 25 and 26 series of submachine guns has the primary advantage of compacting the envelope. In addition, at the moment of ignition, the recessed bolt surrounds a substantial portion of the barrel. Thus, by placing more weight over the chamber — where the explosion occurs — upward climb during recoil is reduced. Finally, this is an added safety factor in the event of a blown case.

The magazine-well on both the UZI and MP9 is located in the grip assembly. This is a desirable feature as it leaves the point of balance directly above the grip, provides a firm support for the magazine and aids in rapid magazine changes, using the well-known principle of "hand finds hand."

The UZI's distinctive stamped and welded, sheet-metal, square-tubed upper receiver configuration with longitudinal interior grooves that provide both structural support and channels for collecting debris has also been retained. The MP9's receiver and almost all other steel components have a black oxide finish.

Just about every other feature and component on the MP9 is dramatically different from the UZI series, and, in some instances, previous SMGs in general. In fact, at first glance the Ruger MP9 appears startlingly unconventional.

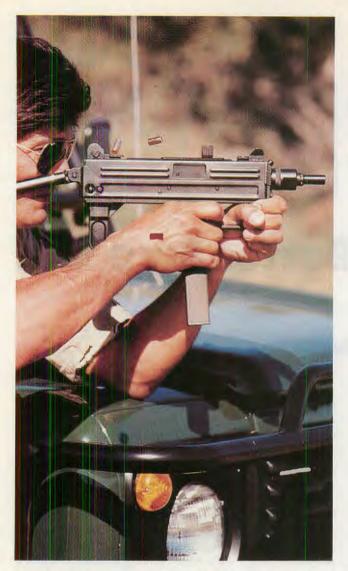
An early Ruger tool-room sample was chambered for the now almost forgotten 10mm Auto cartridge and had a locked breech system with a falling locking block reminiscent of that found on the Czech Vz 58 assault rifle and the German P.38 and Beretta 92 pistols. This was discarded when Bill Ruger directed his engineering staff to remain with the 9mm Parabellum cartridge.

The MP9's lower receiver is made of matte-black, fiberglass-reinforced, injection-molded Zytel nylon with a sheet-metal platform on top to accept the upper receiver assembly. This ultra lightweight material is unaffected by salt water, sweat, oils or bore-cleaning solvents. It will not crack, chip or peel, and never needs refinishing. Ruger has successfully applied this material to the Model 22/45 and latest "P" series pistols.

Because of its Zytel lower receiver, the MP9 weighs only 5.94 pounds (2.7kg), empty. This is almost as light as the H&K MP5A3 (retractable stock version) which weighs 5.6 pounds (2.5kg), empty. With its stock folded, the MP9's overall length is 14.8 inches (376mm). Extending the stock increases the length to 21.9 inches (556mm).

The MP9's folding stock is made of aluminum tubing to which the butt, a hard-anodized, aluminum-alloy casting, has been pinned. To open the stock, just rotate the assembly upward until it locks in place. Then depress the spring-loaded catch/release on the underside of the butt casting and pull the butt rearward until it snaps in place. To fold the stock, depress the catch/release and push the butt forward as far as possible. Push the stock assembly to the right at its spring-loaded hinge at the rear of the upper receiver (in the manner of a Galil or folding-stock FN FAL) and fold it under the grip frame assembly. When the stock is fully extended, the length of pull is 15.9 inches (404mm). Drop of the comb is 1.7 inches (43mm) and drop at the heel is 3.5 inches (89mm).

When the stock is extended to its maximum length and the MP9 is mounted to the shoulder in the proper manner — to both make use of the sights and permit an isometric hold for maximum control during burst fire — the opera-



Robust and reliable, Ruger's new MP9 submachine gun features a unique barrel buffer that reduces bolt bounce, parts wear and muzzle jump and softens the recoil impulse.

tor can employ the unique abbreviated foregrip in front of the trigger guard (and integral with the injection-molded Zytel lower receiver). Its front surface is both curved and grooved (to inhibit slippage). The operator grasps the foregrip with his thumb looped through the trigger guard in the same manner as used on the Beretta 93R machine pistol. I find that this provides an extremely secure and comfortable holding position for the support hand. The front of the magazine-well/firing-grip is also grooved.

Uzi Gal developed an alternative firing position for this weapon system in which the operator places the support hand toward the rear of the buttstock. During demonstrations he obtains high hit probability with this technique. However, it obviates any possibility of controlling a forward-mounted flashlight.

The MP9 has two safety systems, independent of each other. The first is controlled by an UZI-type selector bar on the left side of the lower receiver at the top of the grip assembly. The rear position is marked "SAFE" and this blocks the trigger. Slide the bar forward to the center position, marked "SEMI," for semiautomatic fire and completely forward to "AUTO" for burst fire. Movement of the selector bar forward from "SAFE" to "SEMI" and then to "AUTO" is in the ergonomically correct direction.

The second safety, located in the bolt body, is a firing pin block of the type found on all Ruger centerfire semiautomatic pistols. It consists of a spring-loaded plunger that prevents the firing pin from traveling forward until the trigger is pulled completely rearward and a lever in the trigger mechanism drives the safety plunger upward to permit the striker to move forward after it has been struck by the hammer.

Magazine Mastery

The MP9's magazine catch/release is located at the heel of the magazine-well. It is a spring-loaded paddle type and is well-protected by an integral shroud in the injection-molded Zytel lower receiver assembly. Push forward on the paddle and the magazine will fall freely away.

MP9 magazines have a 32-round capacity (always load one or two rounds less than the specified capacity of any SMG or assault rifle magazine) and were copied from those of the Steyr MPi69/81 series of submachine guns with some alteration to the feed lips. These excellent twoposition-feed, staggered-column, stamped sheet-metal detachable box-type magazines, were in turn taken from those of the famous Swedish Carl-Gustav M45(B) SMG (commonly known as the Swedish "K").

The bodies of these magazines are wedge-shaped with the sidewalls converging toward the front. This shape positions the cartridges so that the next in line to fire is pointed directly at the barrel's chamber. This magazine design is superior to all others in feeding and reliability. They are not only superior to the MP5's curved magazine, but can be disassembled easily and in a conventional manner.

To further improve functioning with the hollow-point projectiles now so commonly used by law enforcement agencies, the MP9's magazine-well was tilted rearward 5 degrees further than that of the Model 201 to enhance the round's alignment with the chamber. A small hood on top of the barrel at the chamber end is also designed to improve feeding.

There is, at this time, no hold-open device on the MP9 to keep the bolt group retracted after the last shot as been fired. There has been discussion concerning inclusion of this feature in the future. In my opinion, it is not required on a submachine gun. During the confined Close Quarters Battle (CQB) for which the SMG remains ideal, operators



Ruger MP9 SMG with stock folded. It features an unconventional appearance with advanced human engineering.

SUBMACHINE GUNS: A SOCIAL SETTING

By definition, a submachine gun (SMG) is a firearm chambered for pistol caliber ammunition that is capable of full-auto fire and most often is equipped with a shoulder stock.

TR. I. D. H. Haller

Thus, an M16A2 M4 carbine, although packaged in an envelope no larger than most submachine guns, is not a submachine gun, as it is chambered for a riflecaliber (5.56x45mm NATO) cartridge. The Marlin Camp Carbine, although chambered for either the 9mm Parabellum or .45 ACP rounds; is not a submachine. gun as it does not have selective fire capability. The Finnish Jati Matic has no shoulder stock, but is a submachine gun by virtue of its 9mm Parabellum chambering and selective-fire capability, Firearms originally designed as semiautomatic pistols, but subsequently equipped with the selective fire option and a shoulder stock (usually a shoulder stock/holster), are more appropriately termed machine pistols, although the Germans apply this terminology to submachine guns as well.

The Italian Villar Perosa (circa 1915) was the first known firearm to fire pistol ammunition automatically and, thus, is commonly referred to as the first submachine gun, although it was initially equipped with spade grips and a pintle for mounting on a tripod or vehicle.

The first widely deployed submachine gun was the German MP18/I. It used the Luger snail drum and had a wooden stock. Heavy, well-made and firing from the open-bolt position, it personifies the so-called "first generation" submachine gun. It proved to be an effective weapon in the trenches of World War I, but was fielded too late in the war to effect the outcome. After World War I, submachine guns found only limited law enforcement applications in Europe. The submachine gun rose to its zenith of use during World . War II. Over five million PPSh-41 SMGs were produced and fielded by the USSR. The Germans countered with of several million of the second generation MP40 submachine gun, the British made 4.2 million Sten guns and the U.S. manufactured large quantities of Thompsons and M3 "grease guns. The Korean War was fought with World War II weaponry. However, with the ascendancy of the assault rifle in the early 1960s, the submachine gun began its military nadir. No major military organization has adopted a new submachine gun in substantial quantities in the last quarter century. SMGs have largely been replaced in the military by short-barreled assault rifles, which, in general, provide more powerful

cartridges that can effectively engage targets at greater distances than possible with pistol rounds. The submachine gun's current, and very limited, military applications lie within the special operations community and then, most often, only when a sound suppressor has been attached to it. In that mode, it will continue to find justification in the field of clandestine operations well into the foreseeable future,

Today, the submachine gun sans sound suppressor has legitimate applications in the law enforcement arena only (but, including military security units), and even there principally with highly trained police tactical teams.

As employed by law enforcement special response teams, the submachine gun is especially suited for Close Quarters Battle (CQB). Submachine guns should always be fired from a strong shoulder mount, employing the sights provided. When fired in this manner, the SMG provides greater hit probability than a handgun. However, most small arms authorities believe that the submachine gun should be restricted to ranges of 50 yards and less. Optical sights offer little image enhancement at this range and only serve to unfavorably narrow the operator's field of view.

Some have recommended use of submachine guns over rifles in urban areas because it is commonly thought that pistol bullets have less penetration through walls and less ricochet potential than rifle bullets. This is not necessarily so. Projectile geometry is a more important parameter in this equation than velocity or weight.

Traditionally, many have felt that the ideal cyclic rate of fire for submachine guns lies between 550 and 650 rpm, however, the successful MP5 series fires at rates between 800 and 875 rpm (depending upon ammunition and several other factors). In any event, strict fire discipline is a mandatory requirement with this category of weaponry. Even though submachine gun magazines usually have almost double the capacity of any semiautomatic pistol, full-auto bursts should be restricted to only two rounds as any subsequent shots in an extended burst will impact high and often over the target. Furthermore, burst fire should be limited to ranges under 15 yards, in most instances. At 15 yards and beyond, operators will increase hit probability by firing in the semiautomatic mode. Head shots, at any distance, should be attempted only with the selector lever set to fire semiautomatic. Submachine guns firing from the closed-bolt position theoretically provide greater firstshot hit probability. Ability to manipulate the selector lever to the desired position while the weapon is shoulder-mounted is a necessary operator dexterity.

There are few outdoor scenarios applicable to the submachine gun. It is most effective when deployed within the restricted and confined environment of an indoor setting. As ranges will normally be no longer than room-length, operators will not usually have enough time to clear a stoppage and must be prepared to transition immediately to their service sidearm. Tactical teams often operate in subdued light or night environments. As a consequence, weapon-mounted flashlights, such as the Sure Fire system, are *de rigueur*.

Submachine guns generally produce less muzzle blast and a smaller flash signature than short-barreled assault rifles. These are important characteristics in indoor environments.

When its limitations are clearly understood and operators have attained maximum proficiency within its areas of usefulness, the submachine gun maintains an important niche in the tactical team's weapons inventory.

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are far better served by concentration on transition drills to their service sidearm than practicing rapid reloads with the sub gun. Although the new H&K MP5/40 and MP5/10 SMGs have a last-round hold-open, I have fired hundreds of thousands of rounds through MP5s and other burp guns without ever feeling the need for this feature.

When loading or clearing the chamber, the MP9's bolt group can be held rearward by an interesting mechanism in the cocking group. When the cocking handle (a hard-anodized, aluminum casting which travels in a slot on top of the upper receiver) is manually pulled to the rear, a hook on the underside of the handle also pulls the bolt rearward. At the rearmost position, two ball bearings on

the underside

of the cocking

assembly's

sheet-metal

dust cover push

upward on the cocking handle

to lock it in a

recess at the

rear of the up-

per receiver. Hit

smartly down-

ward on the

cocking handle

with the palm

of the support

hand and every-

thing will fly



Operators should grasp the MP9's unique abbreviated foregrip with their thumbs looped through the trigger guard in the same manner as used on the Beretta 93R machine pistol.

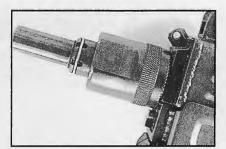
forward. Two forward detents in the upper receiver then engage the cocking assembly's ball bearings to keep it from reciprocating during the firing cycle.

Buffered by DuPont

There are two buffer systems, one in front and one in the rear of the recoiling components. The rear buffer, although made of DuPont's Hytrel, a modern thermoplastic elastomer, is of the conventional type and is attached to the rear end of the recoil spring's guide rod.

The front buffer, designed by Ruger's engineering staff, is unique and quite innovative. Ruger MP9 barrels and barrel nuts are issued as a single component, even when purchased as spares. A split ring holds the barrel nut in place on the barrel. Under the barrel nut and surrounding the barrel are seven Belleville washers, preloaded to a set formula by a gauge and hydraulic press. They are held in this preloaded condition by a staked nut on a threaded portion of the barrel, which must never be tampered with by an operator or armorer. When the bolt strikes the chamber-end of the barrel in counter-recoil, the barrel actually moves forward a few thousandths of an inch momentarily and these saucer-shaped washers absorb the forward momentum by deforming into a flat plate. When this strain energy is released, the plates become saucers again and the surge of energy throws the recoiling bolt group rearward with a velocity only slightly less than the forward velocity they possessed on contact with the barrel.

The primary effect of this type of buffer system (encountered in a somewhat different form in the buttstock of the FN MAG 58 GPMG) is to reduce bolt bounce, which



Under the MP9 barrel nut and surrounding the barrel are seven preloaded Belleville washers which serve as a unique front buffer system. Note that the barrel nut is held in place on the barrel by a split ring. Front sling swivel is mounted on the upper receiver directly in back of the barrel nut. could result in firing out of battery in a closed-bolt system, which has a spring-loaded firing pin that is not fixed to the breech face. It also helps to reduce parts wear and in this instance softens perceived recoil and significantly reduces muzzle during jump burst fire.

The MP9 bar-

rel is made of heat-treated, chrome-moly steel and is 6.8 inches (173mm) in length. The six-groove rifling has a right-hand twist of one turn in 10 inches (254mm).

The MP9 sights are

more than adequate for CQB. The front sight assembly, welded to the upper receiver body, consists of a square post, adjustable for elevation zero, protective ears and a very short Picatinnytype rail at the rear presumably for attaching lights, lasers or optical scopes. Each face of the front post carries a yellow dot.

Colored dots on front or rear sights, unless of the self-luminous tritium



UZI-type selector bar on the left side of MP9's lower receiver blocks trigger when placed in the "SAFE" position. Movement of the selector forward from "SAFE" to "SEMI" and then to "AUTO" is in the ergonomically correct direction.

type are not discernible to the operator in a stress environment. Laser aiming modules and optical sights do not belong on submachine guns. Both devices serve only to impede target acquisition at short ranges. However, a flashlight of the Laser Products Sure-Fire type is mandatory and provision for mounting it should be made on the left side of the MP9's upper receiver.

The MP9's flip-type rear sight with protective ears provides users with either a large "ghost ring" aperture or a finer peep aperture for more precise aiming without a

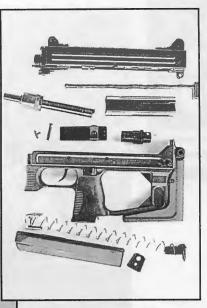
change in elevation. The rear sight is adjustable for windage zero. As with the MP5, MP9 operators should utilize the large aperture for almost all law enforcement tactical team applications. The MP9's cocking handle is Ushaped so that it



MP9's flip-type rear sight with protective ears provides users with either a large "ghost ring" aperture or a finer peep aperture for more precise aiming without a change in elevation.

RUGER MP9 SUBMACHINE GUN SPECIFICATIONS

Caliber:	
Operation:	Unlocked blowback. Firing from the closed-bolt
	position with hammer-driven spring-loaded
	firing pin.
Weight, empty:	
Barrel:	Heat-treated, chrome-moly steel. Six-groove
	with a right-hand twist of one turn in 10 inches
	(254mm). Comes complete with barrel nut and
	buffer assembly.
Barrel length:	6.8 inches (173mm).
Overall length:	
	inches (556mm), stock extended.
Feed mechanism:	
	detachable box-type magazine.
Sights:	
- B	ears and yellow dot on each surface; adjust-
	able for elevation zero. Flip-type rear sight with
	protective ears; large "ghost ring" aperture or
	finer peep aperture for more precise aiming
	without a change in elevation; adjustable for
	windage zero. Short Picatinny-type rails in front
	of the rear sight and behind the front sights
	provide interfaces for lights, lasers or optical
	sights.
Furniture:	Grip, magazine-well, trigger housing and front
I WINCHIGT INTEREST	foregrip portion of lower receiver made of
	injection-molded, glass-reinforced Zytel.
Finish:	
Manufacturer:	
manulacturol, aman	Ruger Road, Prescott, AZ 86301-6105; phone:
	602-778-6555, fax: 602-778-6633.
T&E summary:	
ice summary.	ance with advanced human engineering.
	Unique barrel buffer reduces bolt bounce,
	parts wear and muzzle jump and softens the
	recoil impulse. Closed-bolt firing increases
	first-round accuracy potential. Two-shot burst
	fire exhibits above average hit probability. The
	best recent design in this genre.



Ruger MP9 SMG — fieldstripped.

Pull the bolt group out the rear of the upper receiver body. Push in on the barrel nut detent and unscrew the barrel nut (which has both a knurled surface and two flats for a wrench) by turning it counterclockwise. Pull the barrel group forward and out of the upper receiver. Separate the recoil spring, guide rod and rear buffer from the bolt carrier. Push the retaining pin in the bolt carrier to the left and remove the bolt group. Remove the firing pin block and its spring from the bolt carrier. Remove the extractor retaining pin and lift out the extractor and its spring. After this, the firing pin and its spring can be withdrawn from the rear of the bolt as the extractor se-

does not interfere with the sight picture. There is a short Picatinny-type rail in front of the rear sight also.

You cannot transition from a submachine gun to your service sidearm unless the SMG has a sling designed to permit this procedure. Thus, the type of sling attaching points and their location on the weapon are of greater importance to the user than they apparently are to many designers. In this area also, the MP9 receives a grade of excellent. The front swivel is located at the top of the front end of the upper receiver, directly above, and to the rear of the barrel nut. The rear swivel passes through the upper and lower receivers at the rear. It consists of a captive pin that the operator can push to the right or left to attach the sling to either side. Both front and rear swivels rotate 360 degrees.

Fieldstripping the MP9 is a straightforward operation. First, remove the magazine and clear the weapon. Start with the hammer cocked, bolt forward and selector set to "SAFE." Pull the captive rear receiver retaining pin to the left as far as it will go. Raise up the rear end of the upper receiver and separate this assembly from the lower receiver group. No further disassembly of the lower receiver is required or recommended.



Ruger MP9 SMG with stock fully extended. To maximize hit probability all submachine guns should be fired from a strong shoulder mount.

cures the firing pin. After cleaning and lubrication, reassemble in the reverse order.

Some MP9 prototypes have fired in excess of 40,000 rounds. While it would be presumptuous to state that the 1,000 rounds we fired recently at Ruger's Single Six ranch in Arizona constituted a valid "test and evaluation," the

Continued on page 62





Peace Table PsyOps

The current blustering and posturing, the saber-rattling and maneuvering on the Korean peninsula over nuclear arms retention by U.S. forces and the specter of nuclear development by the North is not a new scenario. Ever since the "peace" at the end of the Korean War, the jockeying for advantage — military, political, real or psychological — has never ceased. And it is not without its tragicomic aspects.

The focal point of this tension is Panmunjom, the tiny Korean village where two enemies face each other on a border between



Shortly after President Lyndon Johnson had inspected the area in 1968, two Gls were machine-gunned to death in an ambush near Panmunjom. The North Korean demeanor has not changed: only the stakes have raised, with the specter of North Korean nukes.

50 SOLDIER OF FORTUNE

Petty And Deadly Pranks At Panmunjom

by Gary Bloomfield

Photos courtesy DoD

communism and freedom.

Situated exactly athwart and bisected by the military demarcation line that separates North from South Korea is a conference building that has been the site of hundreds of armistice meetings since a cease-fire signalled the end of the Korean War in 1953.

What happens inside that building during "Big Yawn" conferences has front-page significance, yet most of the activities that journalists on the scene witness deal with petty trifles, as each side tries to outdo the other in minor, yet always image-enhancing ways.

With correspondents from every international news organization converging on Panmunjom, it's important for both the North Koreans and the U.N. delegation, usually led by American officials, to present a peaceloving yet domineering presence. And above all, each side must portray the other as a warmonger. This psychological war that seesaws back and forth is a constant battle of wits, nerves ... and childishness.

A flag is a flag is a flag, except at Panmunjom.

As a display of patriotism, two small flags — one North Korean, one United Nations — used to stand at respectable heights on their respective sides of the conference table during armistice meetings.

But something changed the simplicity of the two small flags, and suddenly they became larger and taller.

The North Korean delegates had noted, upon seeing a news photo of an armistice conference, and after careful measurement, that the U.N. flag stood a little bit taller than theirs. So between one of the conferences, a one-inch base was added, making their flag slightly taller ... superior, they felt.

After noticing the difference, the Americans followed suit, also adding

Left: Field exercise in futility: At a meeting held in North Korea in 1963, Lt. Col. Alphus Clark, USA, and British officers lodge vigorous protest with bored North Korean delegation over illegal movement of Demarcation Line marker into communist-held territory. Creative communists have never ceased their campaign of harassment.

a one-inch base to a perfectly stable flag stand. This, because the U.N. flag was taller to begin with, made it again higher than its communist counterpart.

Once again the North countered the move, which itself was matched, only to be bested again, and again.

The multi-layered flag stands kept getting taller and taller until eventually the delegates had trouble seeing their opposition across the table. Finally, both sides agreed to a ceasefire. The two flags would be exactly the same heights. No more. No less.

Both flags were carefully measured and matched up by representatives of both sides.

And finally, after 20 years of negotiations and arguing, the two sides had agreed on something, even if it was nothing more than the height of flags on the conference table.

But the agreement didn't last very long. The next day, the North Korean flag was again slightly taller than the U.N. flag. An undetectable piece of felt underneath the base was used to boost it a few extra millimeters. Once again their flag was "superior."

Tired of this petty game, the U.N. delegation didn't bother to retaliate in any way by raising their flag again or filing a violation of the truce agreement they just made the day before.

The North Koreans had triumphed, and the press corps had a "major"



What height in the propaganda war? What appears to be the Eiffel Tower is actually the North Korean flagpole at their propaganda village of Kijongdong. The North even trained pigeons — "doves of peace" — to home on their colored roofs, proving *they* were the peace-loving peoples. Ahah! The U.N. forces countered by painting their roofs the same color. story to write about.

For numerous sessions during the early years after the Korean War ended, the armistice talks lasted for hours — marathon sessions continuing long into the night without anyone giving in and calling for a recess. Stomachs growled hungrily and bladders filled to overflowing.

"Tie it in a knot if you have to, 'cause you're going to sit there and suffer with the rest of us!" warned one delegate from the U.N. side to a cohort prior to a long meeting.

To seek relief from "nature calls"



Harassment by the North often takes an ugly turn. Under standing orders to use any force necessary to "dominate and intimidate" American and South Korean guards, in 1975 Maj. William Henderson, then commander of security troops in the Joint Security Area, was savagely beaten while waiting outside the conference building. Two North Koreans in civilian clothes approached Henderson and roughed him up, then he was surrounded by North Koreans, some in uniform, and beaten unconscious. Henderson suffered a crushed larynx when one of the guards kicked him in the throat.

without disrupting the meetings, many of the delegates on both sides strapped plastic bottles or rubber bladders inside their pants, which would be full by day's end.

At some point during the history of the talks, though, an agreement was reached to allow for a 20-minute recess every three hours. And another history-making decision was made at Panmunjom.

The bottles and tubes were promptly discarded, but maybe they should have been saved and put on display somewhere. After all, they did play an important role in the early decision-making conferences that established the ground rules for today's North/South negotiations.

Lieutenant Colonel Gaylon Johnson, commander of U.N. soldiers at Panmunjom in July of 1975, had countless stories to tell about the North Korean antics in the truce village. One of the funniest he told has been passed on through the years, and even today tourists to the truce village know all the details of why metal chairs are used during the joint meetings instead of wooden ones.

"Naturally enough," recalled Johnson, "the Americans are slightly taller than the North Koreans. So when both sides first sat down to talk together, the North Koreans found themselves looking up at us across the table."

> And they didn't like it, especially since the press reported that the Americans appeared in command of the sessions. Photos supported this contention.

> Johnson continued, "Next time, when we sat down, there was something strange. We found ourselves looking up at the North Koreans. They had cut off the legs of all our chairs!"

> Another North Korean ploy involved painting the roofs of all their buildings in Panmunjom a color that attracted trained pigeons. And of course the communists pointed out to the press how ironic it was that even doves of peace were smart enough to stay away from the

American warmongers.

It took a few months for the Americans to decipher the pigeon ploy, but once they painted their roofs the same color as those of the North, the birds of peace no longer chose up sides. They became neutral observers.

After the strategic victory over the table flags in the conference room, the North Koreans set out to conquer a bigger, more visible objective — the U.N. flag that flew at a respectable height over Freedom Village to the south of Panmunjom.

Across the border at Propaganda Village, the communists hoisted their slightly bigger flag on a slightly higher pole. And once again the battle was on, and the flags climbed.

Soon, two metal superstructures

Continued on page 65



Insects have been crawling over your hands and face for the last eight hours. Your eyes are stinging from rivulets of sweat running down your forehead. Every muscle in your body is cramped and the pungent odor of your own urine gags you. The target finally appears and professional discipline instantly takes command. You dial the BDC (bullet drop compensator) elevation knob on your

scope to 400 yards, align the

crosshairs on the center of his brain cavity and carefully pull rearward on the trigger.

Your target jerks abruptly and then almost simultaneously disappears behind cover and concealment. You have just blown the mission. Your 168-grain Sierra Matchking BTHP bullet sailed 10 inches over his head. He was actually only 300 yards away. Because of incorrect range estimation, your reticle crosshairs were actually more than a foot below the actual point of impact at 300 yards. Out at ranges of 400 to 500 yards, every 10-yard error in range estimation changes the point of impact by 2.4 inches.

Given match-grade ammunition, a sturdy, high-quality optical sight, a reliable and accurate rifle and a properly trained marksman, no factor in the sniper equation results in more misses than errors in range estimation.

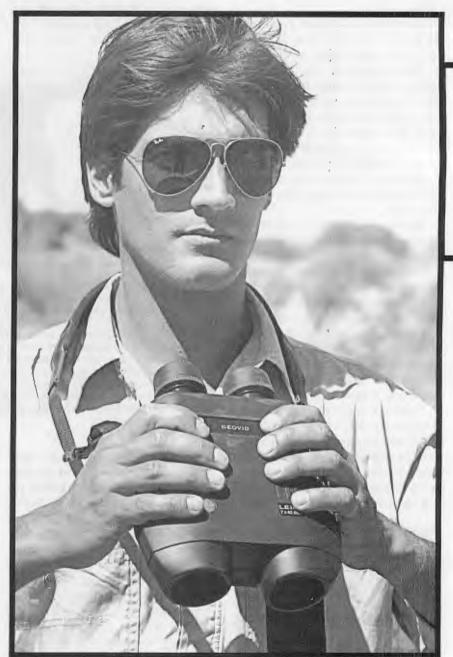
Methods for estimating ranges by countersniper teams vary from the use of maps, the "100-meter increment," "appearance of objects," "bracketing" and "range card" methods up through rangefinding reticle patterns on scopes and sophisticated laser rangefinders that cost more than any organization, except possibly Delta or SEAL Team Six, could afford.

Drag Bag Necessity

There is now a superb alternative. Leica's new Geovid 7x42 BDA binoculars feature a built-in infrared laser rangefinder with accuracy to within 1 meter at ranges from 25 to 1,000 meters. Soldier Of Fortune was sent a pair for test and evaluation by Leica's exclusive law enforcement dealer, Black Hills Ammunition (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 3090, Rapid City, SD 57709; phone: 800-568-6625, fax: 605-348-9827).

While these are certainly not pocket-size binoculars, they will easily fit into a sniper's drag bag. They weigh 52 ounces. Overall height is about 8.1 inches (205.5mm) with a width of 7 inches (177.5mm) and a thickness of 3.2 inches (80.5mm).

There is a pure silver coating on all mirrored surfaces and all of the lens surfaces are multi-coated. The oversized 6mm exit pupil creates a generous 17.2 twilight factor. Distance from the exit pupil to the eye is 18.5mm (0.73 inches). Made in Switzerland, the image quality is dazzling and the brightness stretches across the entire field of view with exceptional crispness even in dim light. The focus is fixed, with a range of sharpness from about 12.5 meters (41 feet) to infinity. These 7X magnification binoculars provide a field of view of 39.37 feet at 328 feet



Leica's superb new Geovid 7x42 BDA binoculars feature a built-in infrared laser rangefinder with accuracy to within 1 meter at ranges from 25 to 1,000 meters.

(12 meters at 100 meters).

Each ocular can be adjusted up to plus and minus 4 diopters. As the rugged die-cast aluminum housing is of unconventional one-piece construction and thus not hinged, the interpupillary distance is adjusted by a wheel on the

underside of the housing which moves the eyepieces until the right and left field of views merge into a single circular image (from 58.5mm to 71.5mm). Each ocular has a sliding eyecup which can be pushed down for those wearing eyeglasses. Deeply-ridged, rubber armor on the housing absorbs both shock and noise.

All very interesting, but the Leica Geovid's most important salient feature is its infrared laser rangefinder system. A laser is a device for producing electromagnetic radiation, equivalent to light, but of considerably higher radiant energy. The word "laser" is an acronym for "light amplification by simulated emission of radiation." Infrared laser indicates that the wavelength of the generated light falls just below visible light in frequency on the electromagnetic spectrum. press it again. The azimuth, in degrees, will appear below and to the right of the aiming square. This digital compass measures the earth's magnetic field electronically, without a single moving part. Solid-state sensors determine both the magnetic poles and the gravitational vector, compensating for even a pronounced tilt of the binoculars. The Leica Geovid is electronically gimbaled at plus or minus 35 degrees and will give accurate directional bearing even from the deck of a severely heeled boat or a fourwheel-drive vehicle on a steep incline.

Declination, which is the angle — variable with geographic position — between the direction in which the magnetic needle points and the true meridian (the north/ south line from which longitudes and azimuths are reckoned) can be entered and stored. Whenever the battery is

 \bigcirc

Leica Rangefinders for First-Round Kills

The Sniper's Companion

Text & Photos by Peter G. Kokalis

The Geovid's infrared laser rangefinder is powered by a 6-volt lithium battery (model 2 CR 5) which can be installed and replaced by using a coin to loosen the battery compartment cover screw. While expensive, lithium batteries have an exceptionally long shelf life, an important consideration when equipment is used only intermittently.

To use the rangefinder, first activate the laser unit by depressing the button (with a double-pointed arrow symbol) on the top and left side of the binoculars. A small red LED aiming square will appear in the center of the image. Release the button. Within 5 seconds, place the aiming square on the designated target and press the button again. The distance, in meters, to the target will instantly (actually within 0.3 seconds) appear in the field of view. Normally, the measuring range is from 25 to 1,000 meters. I have, in very clear air, measured targets out to 1,250 meters with these binoculars.

Several factors influence the unit's measuring range. They are: the reflective properties of the target (bright objects can be measured from greater distances); the angle to the reflected surface of the target (a head-on angle is best); atmospheric conditions (haze reduces the measuring distance); vibration (it's best to mount the binoculars on a tripod, and a threaded socket is provided for that purpose); and finally, lighting conditions (intense daylight infrared rays encountered in bright sunlight can reduce the measuring distance).

Leica Geovid binoculars also feature a built-in compass of exceptional accuracy. To use the compass, you must depress the button (with a triangle in a circle) on the top and right side of the binoculars. Once again, a small red LED aiming square will appear in the center of the image. Release the button and then within 5 seconds de-

right changed or if the binoculars have been exposed to a strong magnetic field or used infrequently, the Leica Geovid must be degaussed (magnetic field neutralized). While a simple enough procedure, the instruction manual is mildly ulars

result in one shot, one kill.

I believe that these binoculars belong in the drag bag of every law enforcement selected marksman. They complete the sniper equation and provide the certainty required in what has always been the weakest link in the chain of elements that result in one shot, one kill.

Leica Geovid binoculars belong in the drag bag of every law

enforcement selected marksman. They complete the sniper equation and provide the certainty required in what has

always been the weakest link in the chain of elements that

Quality and technology at this level are not inexpensive. You can obtain the Leica Geovid from Black Hills Ammunition for \$4,495. This includes a carrying strap for the binoculars and a padded case with its own strap and carrying handle. \Re

Foster Suicide:



More damning than faint praise is an investigative report that avoids rather than acquits the difficult issues. The Fiske report on the death of Deputy White House Counsel Vincent Foster is such a report.

It concludes that Foster died where he was found, on his back in Fort Marcy Park; yet an FBI laboratory memo of 9 May 1994 appended to that same report corroborates the premise that Foster's body was moved there *after* his death.

The memo notes the fact there were two blood drain tracks on the victim's face: one from the right corner of his mouth toward and below his right ear, the other from the right nostril "over the right cheek toward the temple area and above the right ear." The FBI lab memo continues, "The victim's body is depicted at the scene in a supine position with his face looking generally straight up, and the head not turned to either side. While the actual positioning of the victim's head relative to the ground and the contour of the ground itself is not known, the draining tracks suggest his head was tipped back slightly when the draining of blood occurred."

This would mean that the blood draining from Foster's mouth and nose ran to the back of his neck when he was in the position in which his body was found. However, the FBI memo also notes there was a contact bloodstain on Foster's right cheek and jaw, apparently caused by his face coming into contact with the right shoulder of his shirt, which was soaked with blood. This presents a problem for those who contend Foster's body was not moved: First, where did the blood come from that soaked the right side of his shirt? Second, how did his jaw and cheek come into contact with that bloodsoaked shirt?

It is obvious that for some time after he was shot, Foster's head had to have been in a different position than it was observed to be in by the man who found the body. It would had to have been canted somewhat to the right for the blood to have gotten on his shoulder, and at some point it would have had to flop over sharply to the right for his cheek to touch his shoulder and receive a contact bloodstain.

Fiske Findings Fly In Face Of Forensics

by SOF Staff



Former U.S. attorney Robert Fiske Jr. was named independent counsel by Attorney General Janet Reno, tasked with probing Clinton's ties to failed Arkansas banks and land scams. As the plot thickened, White House deputy counsel and former Whitewater player Vincent Foster Jr. was found dead. Fiske's report on Foster's death is controversial at best — and a threejudge panel has sacked Fiske. Photo: AP/Wide World

-24

However, the first person to see Foster's body told FBI investigators that the head was face up, as the Park Police photos showed. The FBI agents questioned him closely on this point, asking him repeatedly if the head was not turned to the right. He assured them that it was not. The Fiske report handles the contact stains on Foster's cheek and jaw by cavalierly asserting that paramedics or investigators moved the head, although no one ever saw the head against the shoulder. In any case, the drainage tracks of dried blood as seen in the Park Police photos prove that the head was face up, not canted to the right against his shoulder, before the body was discovered.

Eyewitness Disagrees

The FBI lab memo did not address any theories of how this might have happened, merely stating that the head moved or had been moved and that "the specific manner of this movement is not known." This was not an adequate dismissal for Fiske and his panel of pathologists, because one exit was not just the head, but the whole body that had been moved. Fiske's team therefore

reported that "the finding of the head facing forward and the right-sided bloodstains are mutually exclusive" - concluding therefore that one of the early observers must have turned the head face up before the photos were taken. Since this glib theory would have been refuted by the direction of the blood drainage tracks, they conveniently left out that difficult detail, only saying, "There were linear bloodstains coursing across the right side of the face, emanating from the nose and mouth." But the construction worker who found the body was adamant: The face was forward when he found the body.

The premise that the body had been moved to the park from a different place was dismissed by the panel, who said this would have resulted in more blood on the clothing and skin than was observed. Unless, of course, whoever moved him took steps to keep blood from getting all over their vehicle and clothes, as would anyone with such a task at hand. The possibility suggested by physical evidence that someone intended to make it look like a suicide in the park was not even addressed in the Fiske report. It should have been.

Physical Evidence Vs. Words

One can but speculate how the movement of Foster's head happened, and who made it happen. But the

bloodstains are strong, perhaps irrefutable, evidence that it occurred, and that Foster did not shoot himself and collapse into the supine, face-up position in which he was found.

> The FBI lab made other important forensic discoveries, but these, too, were apparently of no interest to Fiske and his m u z z l e d bloodhounds. Investigations of suicide even obvi-

ously legitimate suicides — encompass the last hours of the deceased. The FBI lab team found semen on Foster's shorts, and multi-colored carpet fibers on all his clothing, including his underwear. Blonde human hairs, not his own, were found on his T-shirt, pants, belt, socks and shoes.

Fiske's report makes no mention of an attempt to determine the source of any of these fibers, even though they would help determine where and with whom the victim spent his final hours. Such an evidentiary trail is critical to a legitimate investigation, as it might even lead to more than speculative conclusions regarding the circumstances of the victim's death, or the real motive thereto. But it was not followed. As Washington columnists Reed Irvine and Joe Goulden noted, the Fiske theory is that Foster was done in by depression over a series of unfavorable *Wall Street Journal* editorials — but death by editorial is far more improbable than the moving of Foster's body. It may be *possible*, as are lightning strikes and lottery wins, but neither plausible nor probable.

The failure to address specific issues raised by physical evidence, however, pales by comparison to the sheer weight of unlikely possibilities Fiske has accepted almost by rote, and would ask us to accept unquestioned in turn. It may be possible the gun didn't fly out of Foster's hand after he fired it because his thumb was caught in the trigger guard; and it may be *possible* the first man on the scene was wrong when he adamantly stated Foster's hands were palms up and not holding a gun, whereas a police Polaroid leaked to ABC News shows Foster's hands palms down, and holding a gun. And it may be possible a left-handed person would shoot himself with the gun in his right hand.

It may be possible the junker parts gun was part of Foster's father's "collection"; it might be possible Foster thought so much of this junk gun that he, an attorney, would blatantly ignore Washington's gun laws to keep it with him. It might be possible he took the gun from his home and it was not detected by White House guards in their routine search of his car when he entered the White House grounds. It is possible he loved, handled and fired the gun without leaving fingerprints on it. It is possible not a trace of blood got on the gun when he stuck it in his mouth and pulled the trigger. It is possible firing the ancient .38 parts gun in his mouth left no visible powder burns inside his mouth or detectable powder residue on his face.

And, of course, it's *possible* that EMTs at the scene were struck by the fact there was relatively little blood, because Foster's heart stopped as soon as the bullet penetrated his brain even though the heart is not controlled by the brain — and because the blood quickly settled to his extremities even though he was on a gentle slope and

Continued on page 66



gists, because one explanation might be that it was not just the head, but the whole body Vincent W. Foster Jr. as deputy White House legal counsel. Did he die at his own hand? The Fiske report concludes he did — but is not convincing. Photo: Reuters/Bettmann

FIGHTING CHA



On command, Bob Taylor draws and throws knife before Russell Horine can draw and fire a handgun. Lack of a firearm does not have to mean you lose a gunfight.

Y ou couldn't help but notice the four- and six-page ads running in *Soldier Of Fortune* and numerous other firearms, martial arts and weapons magazines by Tactical Response Solutions (TRS): How only 4-6 pounds of pressure can snap a shin bone, the most decisive move you can make to end any fight instantly, how you will never again walk your streets in fear, etc.

These seemingly outlandish claims are accompanied by list after list of failings and limitations of currently accepted self-defense theory. Additionally, the TRS program carries endorsements by several heavy hitters not unknown to this magazine: John Donovan, General John K. Singlaub and a certain publisher by the name of Robert K. Brown.

The question begs to be asked: Is this another "Are you a 98-pound weakling" scam? Or is there something more substantial to a company that pays for multi-page advertising in leading weapons and self-defense journals rather than resorting to one-inch pitches in the back of comic books. To assuage our reservations, Bob Taylor invited *SOF* along to see one of the videos being shot and witness firsthand the quality and realism utilized in their production.

Taylor, longtime SOF associate and convention regular, is considered one of the world's foremost experts in close quarters combat, counterinsurgency and counterterrorism. When we met up with him at KFBM studios in San Diego, California, the two-tour Vietnam vet looked as if he had just survived a week of hand-to-hand combat. Using speed, balance and planning, Rick Reynolds demonstrates how anyone can easily and nearly instantly incapacitate multiple attackers. Disarmament techniques, multiple attackers and unconventional warfare are covered in working detail.



"I've been shot, stabbed, maced, bloodied by broken beer bottles and have a new limp from being on the receiving end of a chair kicked across the room during a 'simulated' barroom brawl with Rick Reynolds," Taylor recounted, emphasizing the realism that has made the *Fighting Chance* video series a best seller.

Under the meticulous direction of Bob Pierce and Russell Horine of TRS, Taylor, Reynolds, Dave Chatellier, Tom Carter and Frank Cucci converged on the sound stages to make a series of self-defense videos without equal. These experts have joined to bring their varied techniques to the public in a forum easily understood by the common viewer. They did not want hours of tape merely depicting students practicing martial arts routines, they were after experts who had successfully honed and proven their self-defense methods on the streets.

And they required all this in a first-class package. Michael Finn Productions of San Diego provided camera crews, sets, extras and expertise. Their TV-quality production techniques lend a degree of professionalism unmatched in this genre. There are no snowy or choppy pictures here. Each scenario has been shot with up to four cameras to provide multiple angles for study and review — nothing is missed.

In Taylor's video, *Unarmed and Fearless*, he demonstrates his techniques of unarmed combat and power knife throwing. He consistently and accurately buries a thrown blade into a target before an opponent can draw and fire a

NCE?

Tactical Response Solutions For Street Sarvival

by Dwight Swift

Photos by Robert Walchli



Pepper sprays and non-lethal weapons are covered in several of the videos. With practice, anyone can feel more confident of their ability to defend themselves against criminal aggression.

handgun. This performance was conducted with both weapons holstered and blank rounds loaded in the handgun. On command, each drew his weapon and "fired." Throughout the series of attempts, the tape clearly shows the knife embedded in the target before the brass has ejected from the handgun. This exercise was conducted at the distance within which most civilian combat encounters occur — 10 feet.

Taylor contends that even in a disarmed society where only criminals carry firearms, a man armed with a knife and the proper training stands a fighting chance against an armed attacker. With a little practice of the methods in this video, everyone should gain a renewed confidence in their abilities to protect themselves.

This is the forthright approach taken throughout the entire video series. No outcomes are scripted, no punches are pulled. If the methods cannot produce the desired effect, if they do not work, they have no place in TRS's lineup.

Reynolds, an Albuquerque police officer, illustrates various street-fighting techniques in his video, *How to Win a Street Fight in 4 to 7 Seconds*. Using speed, balance and strategy, he demonstrates how anyone can easily and nearly instantly incapacitate multiple attackers. Disarmament techniques, multiple attackers and unconventional warfare and weapons are covered in working detail.

Taylor discovered just how effective these methods can be during the five-day taping session. Reynolds, capable of employing anything close at hand as a weapon, proved that special-effects beer bottles don't always harmlessly An entire video is devoted to awareness and family protection. Your ability to judge your surroundings and potential threats allows you to avoid becoming a victim, I.e. don't jog in alleys.



shatter on impact with someone's forehead. Taking his lumps in good humor, Taylor joked how the added realism only enhances the program.

As the martial arts instructor for Navy SEAL Team Six, Cucci found that self-defense program wanting. A normal martial arts approach simply didn't work for the SEALs. They needed a program that was effective and efficient, even while carrying 100 pounds of gear or after swimming for hours, and emphasized offensive maneuvers and attacks. Cucci studied a host of martial arts disciplines and distilled them into a course that has helped make the SEALs one of the world's most feared SpecOps units.

What I Teach the Navy SEALs encompasses Cucci's discoveries while in the Navy. Starting with basic punches and kicks, he slowly initiates the student in beginner-level moves, through intermediate techniques, and concludes with advanced combinations. The result is the essence of what works in martial arts without the bowing, discipline and *dojo* fees.

Carjackings, muggings, rapes, robberies, abductions and drive-by shootings are the bane of American society today. With actors playing assailants and victims, Chatellier, a child recovery expert, and Carter, formerly of Delta Force, discuss personal security issues and awareness techniques in a fourth, and yet unnamed video. Both men are authorities in executive protection and security. The use

Continued on page 68

The Preacher I

A little bit of Walter Mitty lives in everyone; who among us doesn't want to be a little more heroic, a little richer, a little more worthy of recognition? Most would, I believe. Within that context then, it's fair to say that all of us are "wannabes" to some degree. I, for example, have often wished I could have been a fighter pilot, a college professor or a professional athlete. However, wanting to be doesn't require masquerading as the real thing, as is currently being done by thousands of Joe Blows claiming military accolades they haven't earned.

The phenomenon of these otherwise decent men pretending to be Vietnam vets and war heroes has gotten entirely out of hand, and I think it is time for us "regular folks" to expose them. To that end, this article is first in a series designed to do just that.

During my 27 years as a Navy SEAL officer, I have seen many strange and extraordinary things. However, the most arresting phenomenon I have encountered is people who falsely maintain to be members of elite U.S. military SpecOps units: SEAL teams, Special Forces, Delta, Rangers and others. I have personally run across more than a dozen of these characters, and simply can't understand why otherwise intelligent and upstanding men concoct some of the most outrageous tales about fictitious combat experience and battlefield heroics.

As an example of the unbelievable lengths to which some of these impostors go, let me cite the remarkable case of the itinerant preacher Robin Wright. While commanding officer of Naval Special Warfare Center, the Navy's SEAL school in Coronado, California, an article was brought to my attention

an article was brought to my attention from the June 1987 issue of *Guideposts*, Dr. Norman Vincent Peale's inspirational magazine. Additionally, a series of audio and video cassettes which Wright himself distributed accompanied the article.

"Rough and tough and hard to bluff" began the Guideposts article authored by Wright. It seems that the reverend was, in his sinful days, a highly decorated SEAL, receiving the Navy Cross, "two or three Silver Stars," the Distinguished Service Medal and at least one Purple Heart. According to this article and his own cassettes, he was a *very* unique SEAL in Vietnam: "As a member of the U.S. Navy's elite strike-force team, the SEALs, I was on my third tour of duty as a combat aircrewman attached to the aircraft carrier USS *Enterprise*."

Saved By A "HueyCobra"

As gleaned from the *Guideposts* article and his series of cassettes, Wright's C-1A (a twin-engine logistical support aircraft) came under fire while participating in a resupply mission between Da Nang and the *Enterprise* from Viet Cong gunners operating in the "jungle" between Da Nang airfield and the beach. The plane was shot down and Wright found himself the only survivor, trying

> to stay afloat while being shot at by VC on the coast. After a few harrowing minutes, a "HueyCobra" helicopter arrived and dropped a paramedic into the sea. Then, as both men were being pulled into the helo by a hydraulic hoist, Wright was struck in the back by two VC bullets which passed completely through his body.

> Taken to the U.S. naval hospital in Yokosuka, Japan, he woke several days later to discover he had a crushed sciatic nerve causing paralysis from the waist down. While in this condition he met a Marine named John who had lost both arms and legs as a consequence of throwing himself on an enemy hand grenade to save his buddies' lives. I've tried and failed to fathom the physics of how John lost all four limbs by jumping on a grenade and, according to Wright's later testimony, survived to become a biological father.

According to Wright's written and verbal accounts, John the Marine led Wright through a profound religious experience, after which the latter miraculously arose and walked out of the hospital. According to him, "Medics had never seen such a sudden and complete recovery from a crushed sciatic nerve."

Several months after his sensational recovery, Wright



Robin Wright's lies were convincing because he looked the part of a SEAL vet at 6'8" and 250+ pounds. Here he's shown dwarfing his wife and son during happier times in Panama City, Florida, prior to his exposure as a fraud.





SEAL?

Robin Wright, Imitation SEAL, Itinerant Preacher, Deadbeat Father, Con Man and Crook. If You Have Information Concerning His Whereabouts, Contact SOF.

by Larry Bailey

was discharged from the Navy. Returning to his native upstate New York, he "... cashed in on [his] 'tough guy' image and became a deputy sheriff for Niagara County." Thus began Wright's colorful and imaginative career as a civilian. Around 1978-79 he became "... the chaplain at Attica Correctional Institute, a place full of men suffering **Photos courtesy author**

from 'tough-guy syndrome.' "

Always suspicious of men claiming to have been SEALs, I set out to determine if Wright was legitimate. As I expected, none of the SEALs I asked remembered any Robin Wright, and all of them thought the article was patently ridiculous. Just for good measure, however, I





Counterfeit SEALs are no stranger to SOF; these bogus naval commandos, Jason Salerno (top) and Dennis Chapman (bottom) were chronicled in "SEALing Saddam's Fate," SOF Feb. '92. Photos: The Star/The Bulletin

Cobras were two-seat gunships incapable of dropping a paramedic into the sea, carrying any wounded personnel, or conducting an air-sea rescue mission.

After concluding the story was false in its entirety, I contacted the editorial offices of *Guideposts*, where I was put in contact with Edward Grinnan, the editor responsible for Wright's article. After listening courteously to my contention that the whole story was a lie, Mr. Grinnan stated: "... we do not think it would serve the interests of our readers to retract it. To do so might cast doubt over the veracity of the other stories in the magazine." While I thought that was a curious position for a religious magazine to adopt, it ended the matter for a while.

Scum Resurfaces

A couple of years later, I received an interesting telephone call from an old SEAL buddy, Bill Garnett of Panama City, Florida. The local newspaper, *The News-Herald*, had published a long and detailed article on the Reverend Robin Wright, and Bill smelled something fishy. The article detailed Wright's heroic background and his recent founding of a local evangelical church. Bill and another SEAL, Denny Baber, correctly thought the article was not quite accurate. They both wanted to know if I had ever heard of the guy. Indeed I had, and it was then I decided to do what I could about uncovering this phony Vietnam hero.

I immediately ran up quite a phone bill checking up on Wright's past. Reverend Jeff Carter, a kindly gentleman

checked 30 years of

As an example of how just plain silly the Guideposts article was, no qualified SEAL ever served as a "combat aircrewman," as Wright claimed to have done, and he certainly wouldn't have been on his third tour of duty in Vietnam in 1966 the time period covered in the article. Neither was there a strip of jungle between the runway and beach at Da Nang where VC could hide and snipe at aircraft. Nor was there ever a "Huey-Cobra" helicopter capable of sea rescue. The AH-1 variants known as Hueywho was the Protestant chaplain at Attica Correctional Institute, informed me that Wright had never been *the* chaplain at Attica, as claimed in both *Guideposts* and *The News-Herald*. Rather, he served as a part-time chaplain for a few months and so alienated his co-workers through self-promotion and unauthorized fund-raising that he was asked to leave. Through Rev. Carter, I was able to trace Wright's movements to northern Georgia, where after an abortive attempt to affiliate with Chuck Colson's Prison Fellowship, he became associated with "A Voice in the Wilderness," a legitimate prison ministry, in 1983.

My next call put me in contact with the leader of the Voice organization, who told me how Wright had left his group to accept employment as pastor of a local church. It turned out that the elders of that church had asked him to leave after a very short tenure — allegedly because of a dalliance with a parishioner. Leaving Georgia with his long-suffering wife Kathleen, and their five children, he wound up in Panama City, where he quickly established himself with the local evangelical community in 1987. It was then that Garnett contacted me.

After a few more telephone calls, I was able to locate a leading member of the Panama City evangelical group, and tried to warn him away from Wright. No matter how many facts I provided him, however, he simply could not accept that Wright was a phony. He, along with many others, had been completely taken in by Wright's charisma. In fact, not long after his arrival in Florida, Wright founded the Gulf Coast Christian Fellowship in Panama City Beach, which became one of the fastest-growing churches in the area.

Wright was ultimately exposed as a result of the newspaper article and the persistence of Denny Baber. After *The News-Herald* refused to disavow its laudatory article about Wright, despite irrefutable evidence Baber presented that proved Wright was lying, Denny confronted him in his church office in the presence of a witness. At first he denied that he had ever claimed to be a SEAL; challenged with his own audio cassette testimony, he refused to listen. From then on, Wright was on a downhill run. Members started leaving his church, reporters started asking

Wright's Form 214 contrasts with his claim to have won the Navy Cross, "two or three" Silver Stars, the Distinguished Service Medal, and at least one Purple Heart.

questions, and his finances came under scrutiny.

Finally, this paragon of Christian virtue and SEAL heroism left his loyal wife and family and moved in with Julie Chapman, a married woman who was a member of his congregation. Kathleen Wright bowed to the inevitable and filed for divorce. It was at this point that the story really begins to get interesting.

Masculine Compensatory Fantasy

The incidence of "wannabes" claiming to have been Vietnam war heroes or members of elite military units has reached ridiculous proportions. Every SpecOps friend I have spoken to has his own favorite stories about these phonies, and I continue to encounter new cases on a regular basis. Just today I confirmed fraud in two more cases of men claiming to have been Vietnam-era SEALs — one in Naples, Florida, and the other in Mobile, Alabama. In their rational minds these individuals must know that their stories will inevitably be challenged, but something in their psyches compels them to continue living their lies.

What kind of psychological make-up causes some individuals to claim to be what they never were? It is all the more puzzling when most of these men are highly respectable in their fields of endeavor. For example, I know of two regular Navy lieutenants who blatantly (and stupidly) wore the SEAL breast device in the company of SEAL officers. Similarly, a naval reserve captain, who was highly successful in civilian life and who commanded a large reserve unit in California, was caught wearing the Budweiser and, when challenged, averred that he was entitled to wear it. Only when confronted by his commanding admiral did he finally remove the device.

In my attempt to understand the psychological functioning of individuals who impersonate SEALs, I visited a clinical psychologist in Maryland who, in the past, had reviewed the psychological and psychiatric literature on the impostor phenomenon. I discovered in discussion with the doctor that individuals who impersonate others can be found suffering from many forms of mental illness. The most disturbed of these are suffering from paranoid schizophrenia, and they have a fixed belief that they are, in fact, someone else.

There are also those who have bipolar disorder, a condition in which the individual develops a grandiose sense of self. I also learned that sufferers of narcissistic personality disorders take on the roles of idealized persons to further their sense of superiority. Sadly, I have seen this occur in the cases of qualified SpecOps personnel who grossly exaggerated accounts of their combat prowess, often incurring thereby the ridicule of their peers, in order to satisfy some deep-rooted longing for recognition.

The doctor also discussed individuals who have personality dysfunction, the most damaging of which is antisocial personality disorder. An individual suffering from this disorder assumes the role of some heroic figure for reasons of personal gain or to exploit an individual financially or emotionally. These individuals are the most reprehensible of the phonies; in my judgment, Robin Wright clearly falls into that category.

As I talked over coffee with the doctor, I learned that a very common theme among impostors is low self-esteem. This disturbance in their sense of self leads them to create ever-more-intricate webs of lies and fantasies in order to make themselves feel more important. This is a condition known as *pseudologia fantastica*. When the individual takes this web of lies and begins mixing it into reality, e.g., dressing as a Green Beret or wearing the SEAL "Budweiser badge," it is referred to as the "impostor phenomenon."

Oftentimes, especially as it relates to impersonating members of Special Operations Forces, the individual is engaging in a masculine compensatory fantasy. SEALs, Special Forces soldiers, Rangers and the like represent to many men the very epitome of masculinity. This is why SpecOps personnel are the frequent objects of impersonation. For many, these perceived-to-be-elite personnel are the fantasized optimal persons that an impostor wishes to be.

As I spent more time with the good doctor, I came to see how impersonators tend to feel grossly inadequate. Individuals with very low self-esteem and a lack of sense of identity could easily seduce themselves step-by-step over the course of time into a belief that they are the fantasized superior warriors of our era. Those with low self-esteem, who genuinely need our compassion, are a far cry from the deceitful antisocial individuals discussed above who prey upon trusting and unsuspecting individuals for the purpose of exploiting them financially and/or emotionally. It is these antisocial personalities who, by impersonating members of the SpecOps community, do the greatest damage to the trust America places in that brotherhood. -L.B.



Julie Chapman, the other half of this "Bonnie and Clyde" story, divorced her husband to gallivant around with Wright. She lost her son in custody hearing, only to later kidnap him from her former husband.

Kathleen Wright's attorney, Robert Staats, asked me to provide an affidavit attesting that navyman Robin Wright had never been a SEAL — I gladly complied. I also provided him with the information given me by Rev. Jeff Carter. Using this knowledge and other data provided by the U.S. military records facility in St. Louis, Missouri, Staats was able to demonstrate that Robin Wright was definitely neither the hero nor the clergyman he claimed to be.

In fact, his DD Form 214 (discharge papers) shows him to have earned only the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device. Wright's Form 214 contrasts sharply with his claim to have won the Navy Cross, "two or three" Silver Stars, the Distinguished Service Medal, and at least one Purple Heart. And Kathleen later told me that, as far as she knew, he had never been ordained as a minister.

The judge presiding over the divorce proceedings promulgated a summary of his findings with regard to Wright's principal claims; among other things, he found that Robin Wright:

-never attended SEAL school;

-was never in a plane crash;

—was never hospitalized at a military hospital in Japan;

—was never shot twice while being rescued from the water after the purported plane crash;

-never received two Purple Hearts, the Distinguished Service Medal, or the Navy Cross; (As an aside, nowhere

Continued on page 68

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MP9

Continued from page 49

general performance characteristics of the MP9 were well illustrated.

Firing M882 ball ammunition (headstamped "WCC 92" with NATO cross in circle) with 124-grain FMJ projectiles, we ran a number of 20round bursts past the superb PACT (Practical Applied Computer Technologies Inc., Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 531525, Grand Prairie, TX 75053; phone: 800-722-8462) MKIV Championship Timer with its built-in rate of fire mode. Ruger specifications indicate a cyclic rate of 600 rpm, which in my opinion is ideal for a submachine gun. The rates of fire we obtained were between 617 to 619 rpm. That's right on the money, as a wide range of factors affect a machine gun's cyclic rate. Exclusive of given factors, such as the method of operation and mass of the reciprocating parts, some of the variables are: ammunition, fouling, recoil spring tension, magazine stripping pressure, atmospheric conditions and lubrication.

We found the front buffer to be especially effective in "softening" perceived recoil and muzzle jump. As a consequence, and together with its closed-bolt operation, the MP9 demonstrates above average accuracy. This weapon exhibits a considerable amount of sophisticated human engineering and when employed correctly by experienced submachine gun operators from a strong shoulder mount, the abbreviated foregrip noticeably aids the weapon's controllability. Because of the low cyclic rate, even inexperienced operators can fire consistent two-shot bursts with ease and very little practice. The largest rear sight aperture provides the proper shadow-like effect with extremely fast sight alignment at close ranges. There were no stoppages of any kind during the 1.000 rounds fired.

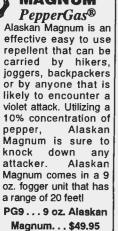
H&K MP5s and modest quantities of Colt SMGs prevail in federal and local law enforcement inventories in this country at this time. Bill Ruger appears poised to stake a claim on his fair share of this limited market. His MP9 has all the right attributes required of a modern submachine gun. It's compact, lightweight, reliable,

The "PNEU-GUN") | = (= <u>-</u> pronounced newgun) is a Powered Ballistic Baton fistful of security. It is only 14 inches long when assembled and fires out a lead pellet filled "Shotbag" at a muzzle velocity of 250-300 f.p.s. One CO2 gas cartridge supplies sufficient energy to know down a 300 lb. assailant 20 feet away. The "PNEU-GUN" air powered ballistic baton is awesome! You have to see it in action to believe just how effective it really is. Don't confuse "PNEU-GUN" with old style "stun guns", "Un-Guns" or "Bean Bag Guns". There is no comparison in power, quality, range, effectiveness or sheer beauty of design. Keep on in your car, next to your bed or handy for that unexpected emergency. The "PNEU-GUN" air powered ballistic baton is the perfect alternative to a handgun. Legal, effective, yet

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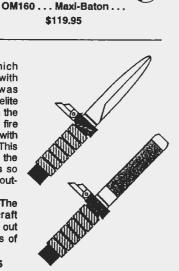


BALLISTIC KNIFE

Congress outlawed the springs which enables this knife to shoot its blade with deadly force. The Ballistic Knife was invented by Russia and issued to their elite "Spetznatz" forces. This knife based on the original Soviet version which is able to fire its blade silently out of the knife handle with five times the force of a manual stab! This American made copy of far superior to the original and its unique firing ability was so effective, a federal law was made that outlaws and knife with a propelled blade.

Now you can get this knife in kit form. The handle and sheath are made of aircraft grade aluminum. The blade is tempered out of 41040 steel with a rockwell hardness of 56!)

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baton)

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sight of the discharge is fear-

some to say the least. It is

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I WAS THERE

Continued from page 22

had been killed. We found more weapons lying there; apparently some VC had ditched them and made a run for safety.

One Ruff Puff came up and pointed to a knife on my belt, asking to borrow it. I handed it over to him. He returned shortly with a big shit-eating grin on his face and showed me a set of testicles he had cut off one of the dead. I was not impressed. It's bad when you can work up a greater hatred for the guys you are trying to help than for the guys you are trying to kill.

As we worked our way down to the riverbank we found two more B-40 rounds and a bamboo frame full of GI batteries. There were about 12 D-cell batteries fitted in a long tube of bamboo strips held together by rubber bands. This power source was used to fire the command-detonated water mine that had exploded astern of our Swift boat. A pair of wires led into the water revealing the location of the mine. Apparently, whoever fired it had his timing off, had a bad contact or a hang fire. Luck was with us on that one.

Our SOP called for a body count. It is difficult to conceive how those numbers meant anything. There were 13 dead Viet Cong, but by the time the numbers were added from each unit, the total far exceeded the actual count. This was typical, and I believe it was done purposefully to make our efforts look more productive than they actually were. Some politicians equated military victory with how many enemy were killed vs. how many Americans were lost.

The captured weapons were

gathered up and we slogged through the mud back to the Swift boats. We stopped at the village to drop off the Ruff Puffs and went ashore for that Coke. The Ruff Puffs kept all captured weapons. We joked nervously that we would probably be shot at again with them next time we went out.

The villagers were impressed with the little packages our heroes brought back. I only felt revulsion for anyone who could cut up someone from their own country after they were dead. It left me with no impression of bravery, only cowardice. Men are killed in combat, but once a soldier is dead, he should be afforded the privacy of his death. These false victors should have saved their heroics for running their country after the war.

As an afterthought, we totaled the cost of ammunition for that day's operation. As nearly as we could estimate, it came to about \$20,000 per dead Viet Cong. If there had been some way to offer those guys a reward just to go the hell home and forget it, we all might have been better off. \Re

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PEACE TABLE PSYOPS

Continued from page 51

supported massive billowing flags at Panmunjom that could be seen poking above low-lying clouds from miles away.

In a desperate move to show the world that even sentry dogs south of the DMZ yearned for the northern paradise, the communists deployed bitches in heat to entice the U.N. canines to defect.

Deadly snakes have been thrown at U.N. vehicles, gas tanks have been clogged with dirt, and a variety of street punk antics, such as puncturing tires and littering the access roads around Panmunjom with shattered glass and metal shards, were common ploys instigated by the communist hooligans inside the truce village.

To outsiders, the antics at Panmunjom simply seem humorous, but American soldiers who have lived and worked there see it a little differently.

"They send every smart-ass in the North Korean army down here to spit on our boots," stated one American military policeman in the Joint Security Area. "It's just completely unbelievable that grown men can behave the way they do. Some of these men are officers, and the things they do are junior-high school level," complained another young American soldier, also formerly assigned as a security guard for the U.N. delegation at Panmunjom.

What they were referring to was the verbal abuse by their North Korean counterparts, which sometimes escalates to stone throwing and other physical confrontations. Even spitting, biting and kicking are in the North Korean Soldier's Guide to Gentlemanly Behavior.

"We're told not to retaliate, but sometimes, because they act like such immature brats, I'd like to bend one over my knee, give him a good spanking, then make him sit in a corner," said one MP.

Another GI was more cautious: "When we have to go in there every single day and put up with the same crap, it becomes an astonishing battle of nerves. But we can never let our guard down, even for one minute, because in the past Americans have been killed at Panmunjom, by North Korean thugs keeping score."

Gary L. Bloomfield was the Army journalist of the year in 1977 for his writing while stationed along the Korean DMZ. He is now managing editor of Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) magazine. 🛪

COMBAT WEAPONCRAFT

Continued from page 27

recoil. Where you see the front sight leave the target is where the shot goes. If you haven't noticed what the front sight does in recoil, look for it: It will make a big difference.

In darkness, the techniques you develop will enable you to get on target as easily as in light. The only problem is to locate and ID the target, which must be done regardless of shooting style. Whether or not you shoot in such a situation is a tactical, not technical, issue.







Remember: See the spot, stop on the spot, shift to the front sight, break the shot, and you'll do OK. Shifting your focus to the sights to verify you are on target takes no longer than simply grabbing the pistol and shooting with eyes closed. But it lets you hit your target. It is most important to make all this automatic through continuous and attentive practice.

Using sights properly within requirements of a tactical situation is as fast as "instinctive" methods. More importantly, *it allows you to hit*. That's what combat pistolcraft is about. You want solid hits in the least time on another who is bent on killing you.

You fight like you train, so train like you fight. In training, condition your mind that it is for real. If tempted to ignore the sight picture, remember, *if you miss, you die*. Feel lucky?

A California police firearms instructor, Gabriel Suarez is a frequent contributor to "Combat Weaponcraft." X

CLINTON COVER-UP?

Continued from page 55

not the 45-degree slope Fiske's pathologists reported. Perhaps it is possible he could write a note by hand and then tear it into 28 pieces without leaving his fingerprints on it; it's even possible an articulate attorney could have written a note whose tenor was that of a whining schoolgirl; and it is possible the Park Police could have carefully examined his briefcase and not seen any of the 27 pieces of torn paper that were discovered six days after his death; and it's possible that White House Counsel Bernard Nussbaum, presidential aide Patsy L. Thomasson and Hillary Rodham Clinton's Chief of Staff Margaret Williams had the purest of intentions when they entered Foster's supposedly sealed office, hours after his death, to sneak Whitewater documents out and deliver them to the Clintons' lawyer David Kendall. And it's possible Nussbaum was furthering justice when he high-handedly denied access to the office or any

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documents to Park Police and FBI agents investigating the Foster death.

Among other possibilities is that Foster was able to hide his suicidal depression from all his co-workers, including the president. It is possible he decided to commit suicide despite the fact his sister was flying in that night for a family get-together, that he had an appointment with the president the next day, and that James Lyons, a friend of the president's from Denver, was flying in to see him.

A Spider's Web Does Not Weave To Silk

And it's possible the crucial Park Police photos of the scene were all "underexposed." And it's possible the pathologist, Dr. James Beyer, who conducted the original autopsy, got this one right even though he failed to detect any drugs in the body the FBI found mild antidepressants and Valium — and even though he has a history of botching autopsies involving "suicides" (in one case a murderer later confessed, and in another case a second autopsy found multiple head injuries that he failed to note).

Yes, all these tenuous circumstances are individually possible. But woven together they do not make a plausible fabric. Does this mean we are entering an era where crooked politicians must only strive for possible deniability before they put on an indignant poker face? Early on in the Whitewater scandal, one columnist noted that the stench along the banks of the Potomac was taking on the fragrance of a Third World banana republic. With the issuance of the Fiske report, it got worse.

Perhaps it was because of a conclusion that on its face the Fiske "investigation" was avoiding the distasteful avenues of investigation; or perhaps because Fiske had been a long-time associate of Nussbaum and was thoroughly involved with principals and corporations implicated in the BCCI and Whitewater scandal itself that Fiske has now been replaced. At any rate, as we go to press, former **Bush administration Solicitor General** Kenneth Starr has now been appointed by a panel of federal judges to head the Whitewater investigation. With that accomplished, and with the congressional hearings now underway, it is possible they may get at the truth. 🕱



FIGHTING CHANCE?

Continued from page 57

of pepper sprays and non-lethal means of self-defense are stressed, as are personal security measures at home. They cover revealing lessons geared toward preventing child abductions.

This video library will help those desiring to learn proven self-defense techniques without studying martial arts for a decade. The combat information imparted by these experts is simply unavailable anywhere else. Delivered in a professional, realistic and high quality package, this information will allow anyone to develop a personal program enabling them to walk the streets in greater safety. In fact, Taylor admitted their goal is an encyclopedia of self-defense tapes comprehensive enough to allow viewers to pick and choose those techniques that work for them.

This is the first time various experts have enlisted to bring their secrets to a waiting public. Tactical Response Systems is always on the lookout for individuals with valid credentials and experience who can contribute to their goal. Watch SOF for new releases, and give yourself a fighting chance.

The Fighting Chance video series is available for \$97 from Tactical Response Solutions, Dept. SOF, 2945 S. Mooney Blvd. Dept. 22-G, Visalia, CA 93277; phone: 1-800-899-8153. 🛪

FAKE SEAL

Continued from page 61

in accounts of his life and times does he mention how he won the Navy Cross, his Silver Stars or his Distinguished Service Medal. I thought that was a curious omission — if you're going to lie, support the overall lie with fraudulent detail.)

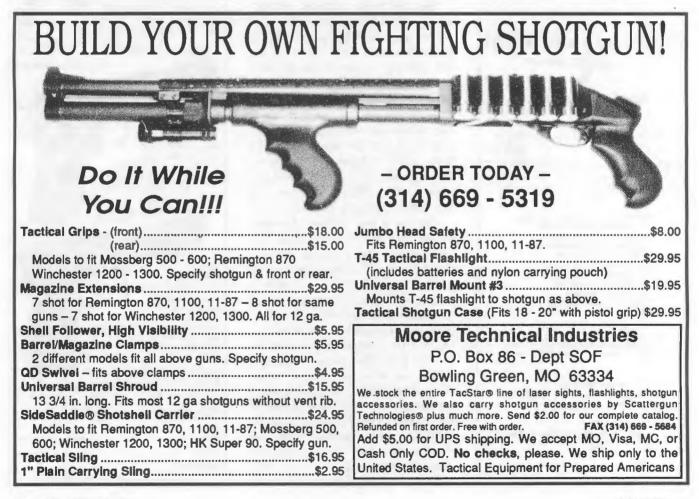
----in all probability, lied about John the Marine; and

—was asked to leave his position as a part-time chaplain at Attica Correctional Institute because of questionable fund-raising practices and statements the actual chaplain described as those of a pathological liar.

Kathleen Wright was granted a divorce from her husband in 1990 and he was ordered to provide child support for their children. After talking and corresponding with this God-fearing lady on several occasions, I marvel that she was able to stay with her husband for 17 years. As a matter of fact, their children are said to be topdrawer in every respect; that they turned out so well is tribute to a devoted mother's ministrations. Predictably, our hero never provided for his children after the divorce.

After the divorce Robin Wright married Julie Chapman, who had in the meantime divorced her husband. At that point, they thought it prudent to leave town and start over. It was not long before he had another pastorate in northern Georgia after selling Julie's Mercedes to raise funds. Nor was it long until he and Julie, who had signature authority over the church's accounts, vanished in the middle of the night with more than \$3,000 of church funds.

Settling in Las Cruces, New Mexico, Wright decided to become a clinical psychologist, complete with



Ph.D. According to local accounts, he actually conducted a counseling practice for some months, billing insurance companies \$90 per hour for his work — although there is no evidence that he prospered in this endeavor. While he and Julie were in Las Cruces, custody of Julie's son David was awarded to David's father, and he picked up the boy.

Skipping town just a few steps ahead of the authorities who had become suspicious of Wright's credentials, the two headed to Birmingham, Alabama, where he sold used cars while Julie planned and carried out the kidnapping of David from Panama City.

Giant Man, Giant Fraud

It is here the trail vanishes. From time to time Kathleen, his three daughters and younger son, who have returned to upstate New York, receive birthday cards from northern Georgia. He is thought to be either there or in southeastern Tennessee. Given his predilection for becoming involved in remunerative religious activities, though, it is a good bet that he is back in a pulpit of some kind. And given the man's size, almost 6 feet 8 inches tall and hefty, he's going to have a hard time evading a determined effort to find him.

And that's what SOF wants to do, with the active assistance of its readers. It aims not only to locate the Rev. Wright in order that David's father can regain custody of his son, but also to expose this giant of a man for the gigantic fraud he has perpetrated on thousands of trusting souls.

Take a good look at the picture of Wright, put the face on top of a 6-foot-8-inch frame, and consider whether you have any knowledge of the whereabouts of Robin Wright, phony war hero and deadbeat father who left his family in near destitution. At the same time, take a look at the picture of Julie Chapman, who deserted her husband and robbed him of his only son.

As far as is known, Robin Wright hasn't surfaced in the form of a preacher. He *did* show up at a classic automobile show in upstate New York in 1993, where one of his daughters, working as a waitress at the show, actually saw and spoke with him. His only comment to her was, "I'm sorry." After the show, he disappeared again and has not been seen since.



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Do you know where Wright, Julie and David are hiding? There are quite a few people who would like to know where they are for a number of reasons:

-David Chapman's father, who would like to have his son returned to him;

-Rob's ex-wife, who is owed some \$46,000 in child support payments; and

----Various local, state, and federal authorities who are after Rob and Julie on a variety of charges.

If you have information regarding the whereabouts of "Reverend" Robin Wright or his wife Julie, contact SOF, Attn: Phony Vets, P.O. Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306. There is no reward money involved, but we will pass the information on to the proper authorities, and thereby get another phony war hero off the front pages and off the streets.

Navy SEAL Captain Larry Bailey retired after 28 years of service and is now a freelance writer, consultant on military affairs and frequent contributor to SOF. \Re

COMMAND GUIDANCE

Continued from page 3

0830 to 2000 EST daily, not only to advise you on where the Senate and congressional candidates in your state and district stand on the issue, but also to provide fact sheets, pamphlets and other materials to help persuade the waverers and undecideds.

In both Houses, the votes on Brady and the various aspects of the crime bill have been very close. For a lot of reasons, among them the Whitewater cover-up, the Vincent Foster murder, the Waco massacre, the Paula Jones case, and waffling on Bosnia and Haiti, the Draft-Dodger in Chief is, to put it mildly, politically vulnerable. So there is a good chance this year of electing pro-gun, anti-Clinton majorities both in the Senate and the House of Representatives. The alternative is Brady II, more Feinstein amendments, more Whitewater, more Wacos. A lot of these races will be extremely close. Every last

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Doing what needs to be done to win this most critical election is as much a simple and a sacred duty as wearing your country's uniform in time of war. 🕱

THE BIG BANG

Continued from page 43

were firing into the night from every government position and garrison for miles around. Larger flak guns ----23mm, 37mm and some larger cannons — added HE shells to the already impressive display of tracers from the machine guns. It seemed as if everyone in the district with a weapon - probably even those carrying pistols — had joined in.

I would have liked to stay and watch, but we were already so far behind schedule that I didn't know if our boats would still be waiting, so we moved off rapidly to the RV. Crossing a large patch of bare ground - well lit from the raging fires behind us --- we were finally spotted by gunners in an AA position. They tried to engage us with their 14.5s, but to our great good fortune could not depress their muzzles low enough to hit us. They did have the effect of speeding up our movement, though, and we jogged across the open area under a sheet of anti-aircraft fire about 20 feet over our heads.

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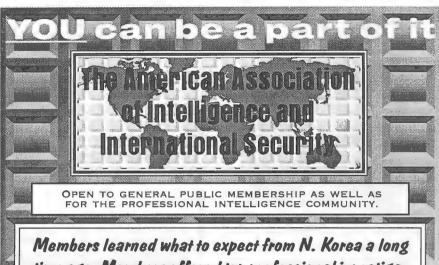
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Incentive To Leave

Colin's team met us in a clump of trees at the same time that we started drawing small arms fire from the AA position. Our luck held, though, as the trees and extreme range protected us from effective shooting. But bullets whining through the branches pro-

Continued	оп	page	82
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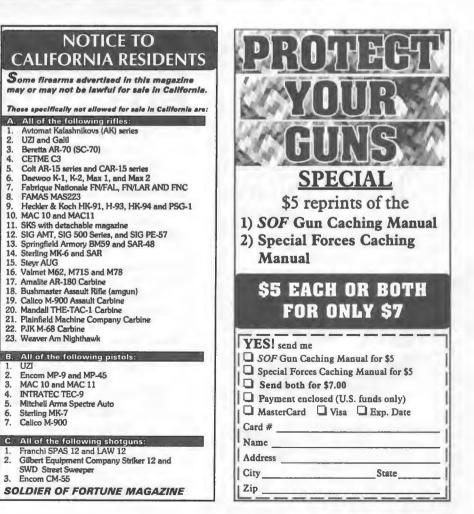


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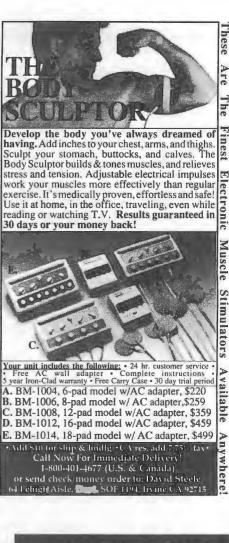
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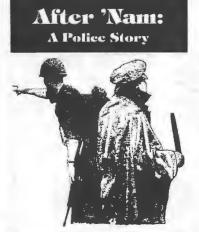
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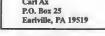
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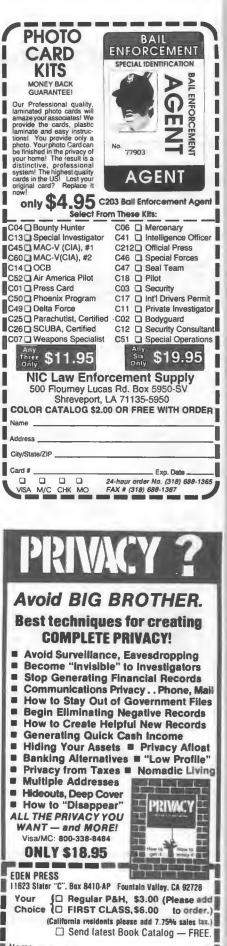
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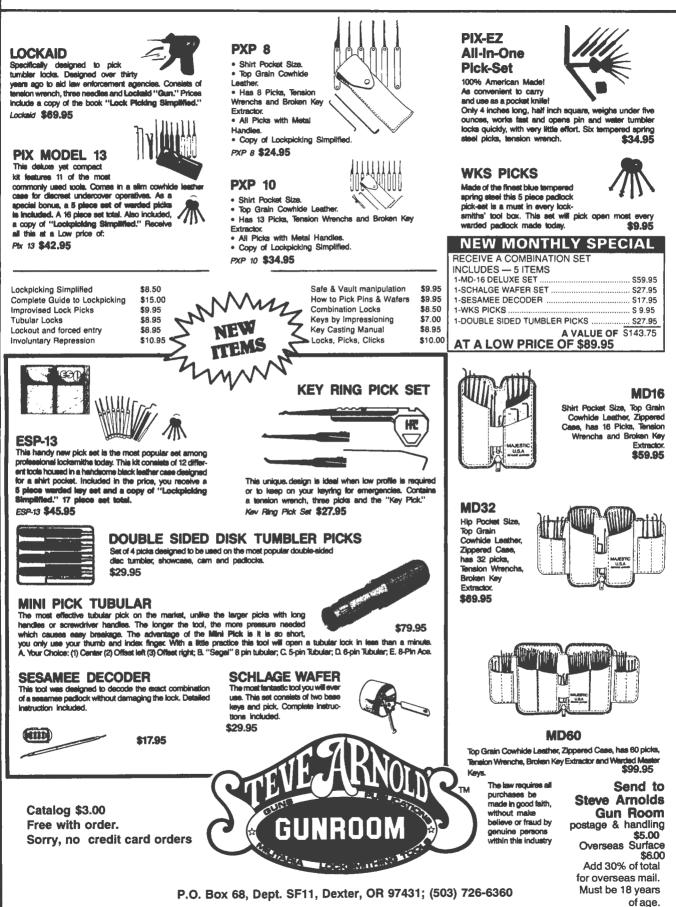




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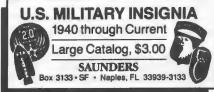
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David Steele Ent Inc
Delta Arms
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Global Sales74
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Gun Parts Corporation
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Hitek
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THE BIG BANG

Continued from page 71

vided more good incentive to leave, so we moved out "smartly." In the confusion, Frelimo did not conduct any more hostile action, and as we vanished in the direction of the pick-up point, most of them were still blasting away into the empty air. I was amused to note in a final look at the shantytown, that while some of the inhabitants were standing appreciatively on the side of the road watching the pyrotechnic display, most of them were still partying at the beer hall.

Already an hour late starting for the pick-up point, and knowing that we still had the mud to traverse, we made the best speed possible. No easier than the trip in, except for our lighter loads, the return ate up the time, especially since Pete's wounded hand slowed us up a bit.

It was cheering, however, to look behind us and see Munhava depot blazing away like a giant bonfire. We got another boost when we heard the muffled explosion from one of our timed charges. Within a few hours the other charges would all detonate, cutting off Beira's electricity and destroying our other targets. Not a bad night's work. Now if only we could get back to enjoy it.

Finally, at about 0230, we reached the pick-up point, and I flashed a light toward the mud bank out in the estuary where the boats were supposed to be waiting. I had sent a message on my VHF set as we stumbled back through the mangrove swamp and had been given another 30 minutes, but we had already used that time up, and 15 more besides. It was with enormous relief that I saw an answering signal flash and shortly thereafter, the white bow waves of four Zodiacs coming toward us over the dark water.

Cruising across the harbor, brightly illuminated by the blazing fuel farm, we felt very vulnerable. It seemed that everyone in town was either watching the fire or shooting into the sky at phantom aircraft, and we reached the strike craft without attracting attention. In short order we were racing out to sea at emergency speed. Renewed volleys of tracer and HE shells poured into the sky behind us for as long as we could see over the horizon and the pall of smoke was visible after sunrise, by which time we were more than 50 miles away.

Starting And Stopping The Inferno

My gratitude to the SA navy mission commander for waiting was, and still is, enormous. Despite our having exceeded the absolute deadline as laid down by desk-bound planners, he had displayed a flexibility that I later found was extremely rare in the SADF. Knowing the capabilities of his ships, and matching them with wind and currents prevailing at the time of our mission, he had managed to squeeze just enough extra minutes to recover us without endangering his crews or operational security. I know he was sweating the delay from his bridge as much as I was on the ground. Thanks again, captain.

Traveling home in the strike craft through a horrendous storm, we learned that our attack had been completely successful. We had blown up the railway, power, water and fuel lines, and left the fuel depot an inferno. The discovery of Renamo propaganda material that we scattered around in the target area, plus the body of our unfortunate guide, gave the guerrillas enough recognition to swell their ranks as dissatisfied Mozambicans realized that they could fight back. And as millions of dollars of fuel turned into smoke, Samora Machel learned that he would pay a high price for his support of anti-Rhodesian guerrillas.

Ironically, the South Africans, who kept their involvement with Renamo a secret for many years, were able to get some good press from this operation: When it became evident that the Mozambicans were unable to put out the fires, since they had no expertise, no foam or water, and no electricity to pump the water they didn't have, the South Africans flew in some fancy fire fighting teams and equipment to help. Unaware that the South Africans had no small part in starting the fires, the press trumpeted in huge headlines "South African Humanitarian Gesture Helps Mozambique."

A frequent contributor to SOF, Bob McKenna rose to the rank of major in the elite Rhodesian SAS. \Re

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